



# INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

GENERAL EDITOR: K. D. BHARGAVA





INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

75263

# FORT WILLIAM - INDIA HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE

AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY PAPERS  
RELATING THERETO

929

VOL. VI  
PUBLIC,  
SELECT, AND SECRET  
1770-1772

GENERAL EDITOR: K. D. BHARGAVA



EDITED BY  
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## GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

I have pleasure in placing before the public Volume No. VI of the Fort William—India House Correspondence Series which is being brought out by the National Archives of India under Scheme I of its Publication Programme. It contains the relevant records of the late Public Department, Select and Secret Committees and covers the period 1770-2.

Our thanks are due to the Commonwealth Relations Office, London, for supplying us photographic copies of some letters that were not available in the records of the National Archives of India and for photographic copies of some of the illustrations printed in this volume. The Director General of Archaeology, Government of India also placed at our disposal some photographic copies of the illustrations for which we are grateful.

In bringing out this volume I am grateful for the help received from my colleagues, Dr. S. V. Desikachar and Dr. Jagdish Raj in preparing the manuscript and seeing it through the press.

*National Archives of India,  
New Delhi,  
2 February 1960.*

K. D. BHARGAVA  
*Director of Archives,  
Government of India.*



# CONTENTS

	PAGE
General Editor's Preface ... ..	v
Contents ... ..	vii
List of Illustrations ... ..	xi
Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the East India Company, 1770-2 ...	xiii
Directors of the East India Company, 1770-2 ... ..	xiii
Governors of the Presidency of Fort William, 1770-2 ... ..	xiv
Members of the Board, Fort William, 1770-2 ... ..	xv
Governors of the Presidency of Fort St. George, 1770-2 ... ..	xv
Governors of the Presidency of Bombay, 1770-2 ... ..	xv
Introduction ... ..	xvii

## LETTERS FROM COURT\*

No.		
1	17 January 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XII, 1769-70, pp. 41-50) ...	3
2	31 January 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XII, 1769-70, pp. 51-6) ...	7
3	23 March 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XII, 1769-70, pp. 57-140) ...	10
4	6 April 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XII, 1769-70, pp. 141-4) ...	52
5	20 June 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XII, 1769-70, pp. 145-6) ...	54
6	27 June 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XII, 1769-70, pp. 147-62) ...	55
7	4 January 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIII A, 1771, pp. 1-11) ...	62
8	1 February 1771 ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from India Office</i> , Vol. XXXV, p. 100) ... ..	70
9	8 March 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIII A, 1771, pp. 13-7) ...	71
10	22 March 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIII A, 1771, pp. 19-23) ...	73
11	22 March 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIII A, 1771, p. 25) ...	76
12	10 April 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIII A, 1771, pp. 27-112) ...	77
13	25 April 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIII A, 1771, pp. 113-7) ...	109
14	3 May 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIII A, 1771, pp. 119-25) ...	111
15	12 June 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIII A, 1771, pp. 127-30) ...	115
16	28 August 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIV, 1771-2A, pp. 1-35) ...	117
17	18 December 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIV, 1771-2A, pp. 37-44) ...	132
18	15 January 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIV, 1771-2A, pp. 45-7) ...	137
19	25 March 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XIV, 1771-2A, pp. 49-97) ...	138
20	23 September 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XVI, 1772-3, pp. 19-22) ...	162
21	24 November 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XVI, 1772-3, pp. 23-9) ...	164
22	11 December 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XVI, 1772-3, pp. 31-5) ...	168

\* All the available duplicate copies have also been consulted.

## LETTERS TO COURT\*

No.		PAGE
1	3 January 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XVIII, 1769-70, pp. 63-4) ...	173
2	25 January 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XVIII, 1769-70, pp. 65-106) ...	173
3	4 February 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 57-68) ... ..	191
4	13 February 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XVIII, 1769-70, pp. 107-9) ...	194
5	18 February 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 69-74) ... ..	196
6	18 March 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 70-86) ... ..	197
7	9 May 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 87-98) ... ..	201
8	28 June 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 99-104) ... ..	204
9	25 August 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XX, 1770-1A, pp. 1-29) ...	206
10	31 August 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 105-26) ... ..	220
11	11 September 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 127-37) ... ..	226
12	1 October 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XX, 1770-1A, pp. 30-7) ...	230
13	31 October 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 139-73) ... ..	233
14	1 November 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XX, 1770-1A, pp. 38-9) ...	244
15	12 December 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XX, 1770-1A, pp. 40-54) ...	245
16	24 December 1770 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 175-211) ... ..	254
17	15 January 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XX, 1770-1A, pp. 54-6) ...	264
18	18 January 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 213-23) ... ..	266
19	12 February 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XX, 1770-1A, pp. 57-58) ...	269
20	16 February 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 225-9) ... ..	284
21	31 March 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 231-45) ... ..	286
22	2 April 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XX, 1770-1A, pp. 89-112) ...	290
23	30 August 1771 ( <i>Secret</i> , Vol. II, 1771-2, pp. 1-2) ...	302
24	30 August 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, pp. 3-18) ...	303
25	31 August 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XIX, 1769-71, pp. 246-62) ... ..	310
26	15 November 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, pp. 19-40) ...	316
27	15 November 1771 ( <i>Secret</i> , Vol. II, 1771-3, pp. 3-15) ...	327
28	15 November 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XXV, 1771-3, pp. 1-8) ... ..	334

\* All the available duplicate copies have also been consulted.

No.		PAGE
29	30 November 1771 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXII, 1771-2, p. 64, Enclosure, 2 November 1771, p. 65) ... ..	336
30	10 January 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, pp. 41-70) ...	338
31	10 January 1772 ( <i>Secret</i> , Vol. II, 1771-2, pp. 16-23) ... ..	353
32	23 January 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XXV, 1771-3, pp. 9-13) ... ..	356
33	27 January 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, p. 71) ...	358
34	20 February 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, pp. 72-5) ...	358
35	9 March 1772 ( <i>Secret</i> , Vol. II, 1771-2, pp. 24-6) ... ..	360
36	9 March 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, pp. 76-141) ...	361
37	26 March 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XXV, 1771-3, pp. 14-23) .. ... ..	387
38	31 March 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, pp. 142-64) ...	390
39	31 March 1772 ( <i>Secret</i> , Vol. II, 1771-2, pp. 27-9) ... ..	399
40	1 April 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XXV, 1771-3, pp. 24-5) ... ..	400
41	13 April 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, pp. 165-73) ...	401
42	13 April 1772 ( <i>Secret</i> , Vol. II, 1771-2, pp. 30-3) ... ..	404
43	14 April 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XXV, 1771-3, p. 26) .. ... ..	406
44	24 April 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Secret</i> , Vol. XXII, 1771-2, p. 187) ...	406
45	24 April 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIII, 1771-2, p. 174) ...	407
46	1 September 1772 ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from India Office</i> , Vol. XXXVI, p. 25) ... ..	408
47	5 September 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIV, 1772-3, pp. 1-13) ...	408
48	5 September 1772 ( <i>Secret</i> ; obtained from <i>Commonwealth Relations Office</i> , London) ... ..	416
49	3 November 1772 ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from India Office</i> , Vol. XXXVI, pp. 37-62) ... ..	417
50	10 November 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XXV, 1771-3, pp. 27-39) ... ..	430
51	10 November 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIV, 1772-3, pp. 14-27) ...	436
52	10 November 1772 ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from India Office</i> , Vol. XXXVI, p. 63) ... ..	443
53	10 November 1772 ( <i>Secret</i> ; obtained from <i>Commonwealth Relations Office</i> , London) ... ..	443
54	3 December 1772 (Obtained from <i>Commonwealth Relations Office</i> , London) ... ..	450
55	9 December 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XXV, 1771-3, pp. 40-2) ... ..	454
56	10 December 1772 ( <i>Secret</i> ; obtained from <i>Commonwealth Relations Office</i> , London) ... ..	455
57	10 December 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , Vol. XXIV, 1771-3, pp. 29-40) ...	458
58	12 December 1772 ( <i>Home Public</i> , <i>Select Committee</i> , Vol. XXV, 1771-3, p. 43 ; Enclosure, <i>Select Committee Proceedings</i> , Vol. XIX, 12 December 1772, p. 279) ... ..	462



Notes	...	...	...	...	...	...	465
Bibliography	...	...	...	...	...	...	489
Index	...	...	...	...	...	...	493

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

A Map of Oude, & Allahabad ; with part of Agra & Delhi ...	Frontispiece
<i>Reproduced from Rennell's Atlas. By the courtesy of National Library, Calcutta.</i>	Facing page
Lord Clive receiving a sum of money from the Nawab of Bengal, for the fund for disabled officers and soldiers ...	68
<i>From a painting by Penny, 1775. By the courtesy of the Commonwealth Relations Office, London.</i>	
Warren Hastings ...	110
<i>From a painting by Kettle. By the courtesy of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta.</i>	
Facsimile of the last page of Public Letter from the Court of Directors to the President and Council of Fort William, 23 September 1772 ...	164
<i>From the original in the National Archives of India.</i>	
Najaf Khan ...	199
<i>By the courtesy of Parasnis Museum, Satara.</i>	
Mubarakud-Daulah ...	215
<i>From Walsh, History of Murshidabad.</i>	
Najibud-Daulah ...	258
<i>By the courtesy of Parasnis Museum, Satara.</i>	
Mirza Jawan Bakht ...	285
<i>By the courtesy of the Department of Archaeology, Government of India.</i>	
Shujaud-Daulah ...	312
<i>By the Courtesy of Parasnis Museum, Satara.</i>	
Shah Alam ...	357
<i>By the courtesy of the Department of Archaeology, Government of India.</i>	
Mahadji Sindia ...	400
<i>From Sarkar, Poona Residency Correspondence, Vol. 1.</i>	

*Facing page*

Facsimile of the last page of Secret Letter from the President and  
 Council at Fort William to the Court of Directors, 5 September  
 1772                   ...                   ...                   ...                   ...                   ...

416

*From the original in the Commonwealth Relations Office,  
 London.*

# CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY\*

1770-2

<i>Year</i>			<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
1770	...	...	Sir George Colebrooke (Bart.)	John Purling
1771	...	...	John Purling	George Dudley
1772	...	...	Sir George Colebrooke (Bart.)	Laurence Sullivan

## DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

1770-2

Boddam, Charles	...	...	1769-70, 1772-5, 1777-80, 1782-4.
Booth, Benjamin	...	...	1775-8, 1780-3.
Bosanquet, Richard	...	...	1768-72.
Boulton, Henry Crabb	...	...	1758-61, 1763-5, 1767-70, 1772-3.
Chambers, Charles Jr.	...	...	1770-1.
Cockburn, James	...	...	1771-2.
Colebrooke, George	...	...	1770-2.
Cruttenden, Edward Holden†	...	...	1765-8, 1770-1.
Cuming, George	...	...	1764-7, 1769-72, December 1773-7, 1779-82, 1785-7.
Cust, Peregrine	...	...	1767-70.
Dempster, George	...	...	1769-70, 1772.
Dethick, Thomas	...	...	1772.
Devaynes, William	...	...	1770-5, 1777-80, 1782-5, 1787-90, 1792-5, 1797-1800, 1802-5.
Du Cane, Peter	...	...	1764, 1766-70, 1771-3.
Dudley, George	...	...	1758-60, 1762, 1764-7, 1770-1.

\* The particulars given in the lists are based on Charles C. Prinsep's *Records of Services of the Honourable East India Company's Civil Servants in the Madras Presidency, 1741-1858* (London, 1885); the *Alphabetical List of Directors of the East India Company from 1758 to 1858*, compiled by C. H. and D. Philips and published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, October 1941; and the *List of The Heads of Administrations in India and of The India Office in England* (Imperial Record Department, 1939).

† Read E. H. Cruttenden for W. Cruttenden whenever it occurs in the list of the signatories appended to the *Letters from Court*.

Fletcher, Henry	...	...	1769, 1771-5, 1777-80, 1782-3.
Freeman, William George	...	...	1769-70, 1774-6, 1778-81.
Gregory, Robert	...	...	1769-72, 1775-8, 1780-2.
Harrison, John	...	...	1758-61, 1763-6, 1768-71, 1773-7, 1779-82.
Hurlock, Joseph	...	...	1768, 1770-3.
James, William	...	...	1768-71, 1773-6, 1778-81, 1783.
Lascelles, Peter	...	...	1770, 1772-5.
Manship, John	...	...	1758, 1762-5, 1767, 1769-72, December 1773-7, 1779-82, 1784-7, 1789-92, 1794-7, 1799-1802, 1804-7, 1809.
Michie, John	...	...	1770-5, 1777-80, 1783-6, 1788.
Motteux, John	...	...	1769-70, 1784-7.
Pigou, Frederick	...	...	1758-61, 1763-6, 1768-71, 1773-7.
Purling, John	...	...	1763-6, 1768-71, 1777-80.
Roberts, John	...	...	1764-7, 1769-72, 1775-6, 1778, Novem- ber 1780-3, 1785-8, 1790-3, 1795-8, 1800-3, 1805-8.
Rous, Thomas	...	...	1758, 1760-2, 1764-7, 1770-1.
Rumbold, Thomas	...	...	1772, 1775-7.
Savage, Henry	...	...	1758, 1760-2, 1764-7, 1770-7, 1779-82.
Smith, Joshua	...	...	1771-2.
Snell William	...	...	1762-4, 1767-70.
Sullivan, Laurence	...	...	1758, 1760-1, 1763-4, 1769, 1771-2, 1778-81, 1783-5.
Tatem, George	...	...	1772-4, 1776-9, 1781-4, July 1786, 1788-91, 1793-6, 1798-1801.
Verelst, Harry	...	...	1771.
Wheler, Edward	...	...	1765-8, 1770-6.
Wier, Daniel	...	...	1768-76.
Woodhouse, John	...	...	1768-71, 1773-6, 1778-81, January 1784-6, 1788-91.

## GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT WILLIAM

1770-2

Cartier, John	...	...	26 December 1769 — 12 April 1772.
Hastings, Warren	...	...	13 April 1772 — 8 February 1785. Governor General from 20 October 1774.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, FORT WILLIAM\*

1770-2

Aldersey, William	...	...	1766-74.
Alexander, James	...	...	1767-71.
Barker, Robert	...	...	1773.
Barwell, Richard	...	...	1770-84.
Cartier, John	...	...	1761-72.
Dacres, P. M.	...	...	1772-4.
Floyer, Charles	...	...	1766-71.
Goodwin, H.	...	...	1772-3.
Graham, J.	...	...	1772-4.
Hare, Francis	...	...	1769-71.
Harris, James	...	...	1772.
Hastings, Warren	...	...	1772-85.
Jekyll, Joseph	...	...	1770-2.
Kelsall, Thomas	...	...	1766-71.
Lane, Thomas	...	...	1770-2.
Lawrell, James	...	...	1772-4.
Middleton, Samuel	...	...	1770-2.
Reed, John	...	...	1770-2.
Russell, Claud	...	...	1766-71.
Vansittart, George	...	...	1773.
Wilkins, Walter	...	...	1772.

## GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST. GEORGE

1770-2

Bourchier, Charles	...	25 January 1767 — 31 January 1770.
Du Pré, Josias	...	31 January 1770 — 1 February 1773.

## GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY

1770-2

Hodges, T.	...	27 January 1767 — died 23 February 1771.
Hornby, W.	...	26 February 1771 — 1 January 1784.

\* The years mentioned against the names of the members of the Board, Fort William, do not necessarily indicate the entire terms of their membership but merely show that they were members during the period stated as verified from the correspondence.



## INTRODUCTION

The letters in this volume relate to the years 1770 to 1772, virtually the period of Cartier's Governorship of Bengal and the early days of Warren Hastings's rule. These years may be regarded as the formative period of British policy in India in which the transition from a commercial to an imperial role was clearly in evidence. A mercantile company had grown conscious of its new position and was forging measures and adopting principles which soon helped to transform it into a sovereign political authority on its way to the establishment of universal sway over India. The commercial interests of a dividend-seeking proprietary body came into conflict with the welfare and prosperity of the vast millions subject to its rule, and efforts were made to adjust the two. Plans were devised and schemes discussed to evolve an administrative system which would contribute to the better collection of revenues and the dispensation of justice. Schemes to reorganise the services were in contemplation, and these were directed not merely to the raising of the morale of the Company's servants but also to fit them to the growing needs of the new administration. The Company's Government both in England and India, was thus striving in these years to dissolve the defective structure of Clive's "Double Government" and pave the way for Warren Hastings' administrative system.

The correspondence is in two parts: (1) the letters and despatches addressed by the Government of Bengal to the Court of Directors in London, and (2) the despatches sent by the Court of Directors to their servants at Fort William. The former were addressed by two authorities, the Council and the Select Committee. The Council's letters relate to general matters pertaining to the affairs of Fort William and its quarterly despatches are generally divided into eight sections: shipping; goods from Europe or from one part of India to another; investments; trade of India, transactions with country powers and European nations; fortifications, buildings and revenues; covenants; military servants and their accounts; and the Charter establishing the Calcutta Corporation. Every measure concerning trade and investment, or expenditure from the revenues, as well as all matters relating to the discipline and personnel of the services, both civil and military, find a place in these general despatches. Shipping forms an important part of this correspondence. The letters include lists of persons sailing by every ship to England and also lists of writers, etc., who arrived in the country for the Company's service. Apart from the wealth of interesting information furnished by them on the behaviour of the services, they deal particularly with two subjects of immense importance for the study of the economic history of Bengal: first, the establishment of the silk reeling industry in the Company's factories, and secondly, provision of "investments" for export to England and the best method of procuring it.

Far more interesting, however, is the correspondence of the Select Committee, which had been established for the purpose of conducting "everything that relates to the Country Government, either with respect to the *Duannee* or the Company's political interests with the neighbouring powers,



together with the military operations depending thereon". Its main function was "to negotiate with the *Soubah* and the country powers". Another important function was "to superintend the collection of the revenues arising from the *Duannee*, but without the power of disbursing them".<sup>1</sup> In this period these two subjects assume more than ordinary importance. Political situation in northern India was extremely intriguing. The return of the Marathas to the Gangetic plain reflected their desire to dominate Delhi politics. This reacted naturally on the security and mutual relations of the states of northern India. The Fort William Government did not remain a mere passive spectator because of the repercussions of these events on its allies, the Emperor at Allahabad and the Nawab of Oudh. The Select Committee letters, therefore, bear a record of the hopes and fears of the British rulers in Bengal and give us a glimpse into their policy, which was growing frankly imperialistic even at this stage.

The references to revenue matters are also of no mean interest. These years mark the visitation of a terrible famine in Bengal which dislocated the entire socio-economic structure of that province. The effect of the famine on the revenue collections and the attempt to restore the norm, together with the early measures adopted by Warren Hastings for a new revenue settlement, are fully described in the correspondence.

The Court of Directors' despatches generally deal with matters relating to their trade and investment, and convey their orders and instructions on various subjects connected with the affairs of Bengal. Their keenness for the success of the experiment in silk reeling is evident from the constant recurrence of the subject in these despatches. Their anxiety for increasing the revenue collections is undoubted. They gave expression to their virtuous resentment at the reported misbehaviour of their servants at the time of the famine. And more outspoken were their remonstrances on the misconduct of their servants in Bengal. Their financial worries were not inconsiderable and find expression in their repeated expostulations for economy. But very few references are available about their views in respect of the Indian political situation, except that they were alarmed at the growing power of the Marathas, and were keen to prevent the resurgence of French political power or commercial interests in India.

The importance of these papers, thus, for a student of Indian history cannot be gainsaid. The foundations of the entire structure of the Anglo-Indian administration as it emerged in later years and the whole edifice of the political policy followed by successive Governors General may be traced back to the experiments, aspirations and tribulations of the early administrators that find expression in these letters. In the following pages will be outlined the main aspects of this correspondence under separate headings. I shall take first the Company's policy towards the Indian as well as the European powers, and then deal with matters relating to revenue, trade, civil services, etc., thus distinguishing the subjects dealt with by the Select Committee from those of the General Council.

<sup>1</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *Early Administrative System of the East India Company in Bengal*, Volume 1 (1765-74), p. 290.

*Relations with Indian powers**(i) Political situation : background and general appraisal*

After the battle of Panipat in 1761 the Indian political situation was in a flux and kaleidoscopic changes were occurring in northern India. The fugitive Emperor Shah Alam, after vainly trying to seek refuge in the eastern provinces, settled in Allahabad virtually as a British pensioner, and Delhi continued to be dominated by Najibud-Daulah till his death. The recurring invasions of Ahmad Shah Abdali ceased in 1769. The Sikhs, the Jats and the Rohillas had been consolidating their positions. Nawab Shujaud-Daulah of Oudh, frustrated in his ambition to dominate the eastern regions, had been compelled by his defeat at Buxar and its aftermath to depend more and more on the British military power for his security. The disastrous episode of 1761 had stunned the Marathas for a while and northern India had a temporary respite from their frequent raids. Moreover, their internal differences and the minority of the reigning Peshwa had left them weak, and precluded the possibility of their pursuing an aggressive policy at an early date.

This situation was reflected clearly in the policy of the East India Company, which might be termed as one of "isolation". The British were to lie snugly ensconced in the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. This policy was laid down for the Bengal Council by Lord Clive in his testamentary letter to the Select Committee of 16 January 1767.<sup>2</sup> His injunction was, "Studiously maintain peace,—it is the groundwork of our prosperity ; never consent to act offensively against any powers, except in defence of our own, the King's or the Nawab Vizier's dominions". He was opposed to "a march to Delhi", which he regarded as a "vain and fruitless project". His view of the character of the Vazir persuaded him to believe that the latter could "never engage against us in another war". He warned the Select Committee not to encourage his aggressive ambitions against his neighbours. He considered Shah Alam as a "troublesome royal guest", who could be got rid of by being escorted to Delhi by Shujaud-Daulah, but without any assistance from the British. He had no fears of the Rohillas, the Jats or other northern powers. As regards the Marathas he suggested an agreement with Janoji Bhonsle in respect of Orissa, and an alliance with Nizam Ali of Hyderabad which would keep the Poona Marathas quiet. By these measures he hoped to provide "security" and "tranquillity" to Bengal, and the "distracted and divided" state of the Indian powers gave him confidence in the future.

The situation did not materially differ in the time of Verelst, for even though the northern movement of the Marathas had commenced in 1767, it had not yet enveloped the Gangetic plain. Verelst also based the foundations of British security, first on the military weakness of the Indian powers arising from their financial difficulties consequent upon "the general indigence of the Mogul Empire",<sup>3</sup> and secondly on "the discordancy of the principles, views, and interests of the neighbouring powers, which must ever defeat any project of

<sup>2</sup> *Bengal and Madras Papers*, Vol. III, 1757-85.

<sup>3</sup> Verelst's *Letter to the Court of Directors*, 28 March 1768 ;—Harry Verelst: *A view of the rise, progress and present state of the English Government in Bengal*. Appendix No. XXIV, p. 100.

accomplishing, by an association, what the wealth or power of a single one must prove unequal to".<sup>4</sup> His hope, therefore, was natural that "thus circumstanced, it will always be easy for a watchful and active administration on our side to hold the general balance of Hindostan and crush every ambition in the bud, by spiring up some neighbouring power, who may be either ill-disposed, or at least not favourable to the confederates".<sup>5</sup> He laid great value by the military occupation of Allahabad and urged the "necessity of retaining His Majesty under our influence".<sup>6</sup> His views about the Emperor may be summarised in his words: "We must either contrive to guide him at a distance or so to palliate, that, if unsuccessful, he may consider us as his protectors, our provinces as the place of his refuge".<sup>7</sup> The importance of control over the Emperor's person appears to have been fully realised now, and Verelst was loth to let others have a dominant influence at his court. The other ally, the Nawab of Oudh, was not at all regarded dangerous, because it would "always be in our power to direct the force he has to such purposes as may best conduce to the interest of the Honourable Company and the general peace".<sup>8</sup> His character emboldened Verelst to regard him as a "much proper instrument to accomplish the Company's main point, the maintaining themselves the umpires of Hindostan".<sup>9</sup>

Two circumstances, however, had appreciably modified the situation on the eve of Verelst's departure: one, the increasing menace of Maratha expeditions into northern India and their frank desire to control Delhi politics, and the other, the growing awareness of the future role of the East India Company in Indian politics. The earlier policy of isolation and the smug confidence in the security of Bengal could not remain unaffected for long, for the ambition of maintaining the empire of Hindustan was threatened by the fast spreading Maratha supremacy in northern India. Hence, the English soon grew conscious of the Marathas as their main enemy, which fact largely influenced their diplomacy and motivated their military and political activities. The importance of the Emperor was now greatly enhanced and the control over his person was desired by the two contending rivals. Faced with the prospect of Maratha opposition, the English Company could not afford to lose the alliance of the Nawab of Oudh, whose political and military resources might be utilised for the furtherance of its imperial ambitions. Just as in 1767 the British had sought to form a confederacy of the Indian powers to stem the advance of the Abdali, so now the Calcutta Government was eager to organise a league of the Jats, the Rohillas, the Vazir and the Emperor to force the Marathas back into Central India. Thus, in these years were sown the seeds of the policy which blossomed in the time of Warren Hastings and Wellesley into British paramountcy.

The gravity of the situation was realised early in 1770 when it was reported that Mir Kasim had emerged from obscurity and was concerting plans "to form

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 101.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 102.

<sup>6</sup> Verelst's *Letter to John Cartier and members of the Select Committee*, 16 December 1769; Harry Verelst, *op. cit.*,—Appendix No. XXVIII, p. 125.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Verelst's *Letter to the Court of Directors*, 28 March 1768; Harry Verelst, *op. cit.*, Appendix No. XXIV, p. 102.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 103.

a league of the Marathas and the chiefs of northern India to attack the British". He had been offered refuge by the Rana of Gohad, and he depended on the Marathas, the Sikhs and Ghaziud-Din Khan, as well as the Rohillas, for support. And coinciding with the return of the Maratha forces into northern India, the danger seemed to be all the greater. However, Mir Kasim's adventure soon burst like a bubble and his forces melted away owing to the instability of his finances.

The Select Committee could now heave a sigh of relief, but their complacency was temporary. The Marathas had in the first instance directed their arms against Rajputana and the Jat territories. They had defeated the forces of Nawal Singh Jat and moved on to Mathura. But they were not able to acquire possession either of Dig or Agra, which circumstance the Select Committee fondly hoped would check "their progress and may one day lay the foundation for their extirpation". This hope was soon belied when Dig was annexed by the Marathas and Najibud-Daulah, terrified at the return of his enemies of the south, opened negotiations with them. The constant Sikh menace, the desire to crush the growing power of the Jats, the hope of restoring the Emperor to his throne at Delhi and the fear of the Maratha power were the factors which influenced his decision. Added to these motives was his desire to protect the Rohillas from harm. The Marathas soon encamped at Koil (Aligarh) and directed their arms to the reconquest of their lost territories in the Doab from the Pathans and the Rohillas. There opened out at this time a stream of intrigues and negotiations wherein each power tried to fend for itself and ward off the evil day. At one time it seemed as if a league of Indian powers would be formed under the leadership of the Marathas and a stable political system might emerge in Hindusthan. Even the Emperor and Shujaud-Daulah sent their vakils to the Maratha camp. The Marathas invited the Emperor to return to his capital, and their offer was reinforced by the entreaties of the queen-mother and Najibud-Daulah. But the year 1770 terminated without any gleam of light being visible in the dark clouds of Indian politics. Najibud-Daulah died in October. He had kept the Marathas away from Delhi and had staved off the danger facing the Rohillas. His fond hope of uniting the Marathas and the Rohillas ended with his death, and in 1771 began the onward march of the southern hordes against Rohilkhand and a determined move by them to dominate Delhi politics by re-establishing Shah Alam there.

The next two years were marked by recurring Maratha incursions into the Rohilla territory in search of plunder. Their relations with Zabita Khan, the son and successor of Najibud-Daulah, were characterised neither by wisdom nor by continuity of policy. Divided counsels and mutual jealousies among the Maratha generals were responsible for their halting and unstable policy. Their threat to the Rohillas drove the latter into the arms of their hereditary enemy, the ruler of Oudh. The Marathas were unable to adopt a definite policy towards Shujaud-Daulah. They could neither befriend him, nor muster sufficient courage to crush his political power. It is amazing how they failed to fraternize with the Sikhs or the Jats and thereby raise a confederacy against the Afghans. There can be no doubt of the eagerness of the Marathas to extend their sway over northern India, but this they intended to achieve by investing the Mughal Emperor with the halo of sovereignty and acting as his agents. They did not yet have the courage to set him aside and proclaim the



Peshwa as the suzerain of Delhi. The traditional respect for Akbar's descendant, and the awe inspired by the very name of the Mughal Emperor, were still powerful factors which prevented usurpation of the Imperial throne by any of the newly emerging local sovereigns in India. Therefore the Marathas occupied themselves only with the game of filling the Delhi throne. If Shah Alam could not be moved out of Allahabad, they were prepared to raise a *Shahzada* to the throne, and Ghaziud-Din, their ally, had definitely made a suggestion to this effect. However, Shah Alam, being disappointed in his hope of being escorted by the British and Shujaud-Daulah to Delhi, listened with alacrity to the overtures of Visaji Pandit and Mahadji Sindia. Ultimately the Marathas succeeded in enticing him to Delhi. Having achieved this they dissipated their energy in fighting the Rohillas in the name of the Emperor. Two years were wasted in these fruitless adventures, and when on the death of Madhava Rao Peshwa, and later owing to the chaos in Poona arising out of the murder of Narayan Rao, the Maratha forces withdrew from Delhi, they left behind them a confusion in which the central authority was irretrievably impaired, and the Emperor became the victim of the caprice of every unscrupulous upstart. Their negative policy, vacillating attitude, and inadequate appreciation of the developments in northern India led directly to the rapid strengthening of the power of the East India Company, which paved the way for its ultimate bid for supremacy.

(ii) *Company's policy towards the Marathas and the Mughal Emperor*

The main problem that Cartier and his Council were to tackle was the situation arising from the open attempt of the Marathas to take possession of the person of Shah Alam and establish their own supremacy nominally acting in his name. The first threat to the Company's security, however, came from the intrigues and activities of Mir Kasim. When the news of his machinations arrived, and there was fear of an invasion of Bengal by way of Bundelkhand, Cartier sought the friendship of Raja Hindupat of Bundelkhand and asked Raja Balwant Singh of Benares to strengthen his forces. Oudh and the Emperor's dominions were rightly deemed to be the first line of defence and their protection was the principal obligation of the Company. The Select Committee drew up a comprehensive plan of defence in consultation with Sir Robert Barker. The Committee was, however, not prepared to extend the area of its military activities or "court disturbances for the sake of new country or military glory".<sup>10</sup> At this time they were reluctant to move their forces even beyond the Karamnasa for fear of the French and because of the positive orders of the Court of Directors to confine their arms within the limits of Bengal. While taking the necessary precautions they were prone to belittle the "conjunction" of "the Marathas, or Sikhs or Cossim Aly Cawn" unless "joined by Sujah Dowlah or adorned with the name of Royalty", when they were liable to become "serious objects of our concern".<sup>11</sup> As matters stood they did not apprehend much trouble as in the past "by showing a determined face at the beginning in Hindostan the greatest confederacies have been broken".<sup>12</sup> When

<sup>10</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 18 February 1770, para 4.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

the danger passed off, they again observed "that the quarrels of the Hindostan powers amongst themselves concur almost equally with the terror of our arms to maintain your possessions in repose, and we shall ever make it a rule of our conduct to be in such cases mere spectators."<sup>13</sup>

But as early as May the Governor and Council were faced with a new danger, no less acute, by "the rapid growth of the Marrattah power in Hindostan",<sup>14</sup> which grew in intensity as the year advanced. The incursion of the Marathas into Hindustan convinced the Select Committee that they were "filled with no vain hopes of re-establishing the foundations of their ancient influence and grandeur in the Empire".<sup>15</sup> Their alliance with Najibud-Daulah, which the Select Committee could not easily account for, and the inclination of the Rohillas to join this league did not excite any alarm in the British mind, because the junction of Najibud-Daulah and Ghaziud-Din with the Marathas had "not only effectually disjoined the King and Vizir from them but totally changed their system of action. The King is threatened with a pretender to his throne, the Nabob Shujah-ul-Doulah with a competitor for the Vizerate".<sup>16</sup> The Select Committee therefore entertained the hope that Najibud-Daulah's self-interest would not be reconciled with "the re-establishment of the present King",<sup>17</sup> who would certainly give no quarter to Ghaziud-Din. They also believed that an alliance with Shujaud-Daulah would not suit the interests of the Marathas "whose sole aim is universal sway", for then the Marathas "would have to share the honor and the power with the Vizier whereas at present they have the unrivalled possession of both".<sup>18</sup> While having no faith in the King's professions or the Vazir's protestations, the Calcutta Government banked on their apprehensions and alarm as elements favourable to the security of Bengal.

By the end of June 1770, it was apparent that Ghaziud-Din's plan of raising a new king would not materialise. It had occasioned differences among the confederates, and the Select Committee was even encouraged to hope that Najibud-Daulah would quit the alliance. The remarks of the Select Committee on the political morality of the Indian chiefs deserve attention: "The consequence of this difference of opinion has been jealousy, disgust, and intrigue, and though it is difficult to judge of events in a country where the leaders are influenced by caprice more than policy, it does not appear improbable that Nijibeul-Dowlah may be ultimately induced by his superior good sense and the apparency of his interest to quit his present unnatural alliance and set himself at the head of an association against the Marrattahs".<sup>19</sup>

The commanding position of the Marathas in the Doab, the absence of any symptoms of opposition to them by the neighbouring powers, and the revival of the Emperor's ambition for regaining his throne awakened a sense of danger in the Calcutta Government. In their letter of 31 August 1770, the Select Committee reviewed the situation and outlined their attitude with a remarkably keen political insight and a sturdy sense of self-preservation. They frankly recognised the Marathas as a power "which we have most to fear

<sup>13</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 18 March 1770, para 8.

<sup>14</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 9 May 1770, para 4.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, para 8.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, para 9.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 28 June 1770, para 3.

from, and consequently right to be most jealous of".<sup>20</sup> In this setting they analysed the conduct of the other powers and scrutinised the alternative modes of counter-acting the Maratha predominance. The Rohillas had shown some inclination to resist the invaders but, unsupported by the Jats or the Nawab Vazir of Oudh, they could not make any headway. Regarding these two, the Select Committee rightly moaned that "there is but too much reason to apprehend that a divided government will withhold the former and jealousy inflamed by a rooted enmity will the latter, so that in all probability the present favourable and singular opportunity of giving check to the career of these disturbers of Hindostan will be suffered to pass unessayed".<sup>21</sup> The Company's Government entered into correspondence with all these powers, particularly Oudh, bringing home to them the immensity of the danger. Their appeal to Shujaud-Daulah's bravery and sense of pride, their exhortation that "All eyes are at this moment turned towards him, and Hindostan hopes that he will not let her children be food for the swords of the haughty Mahrattas, and thinks that he alone can hold the balance between them and the rest of the Empire",<sup>22</sup> or their remonstrances that he was behaving no better than the other chiefs and watching the destruction of the Rohillas and that self-interest as well as policy required him to help the Rohillas against the Marathas,<sup>23</sup> had no effect on the Vazir, who refused to take any action unsupported by the British. The Select Committee was not wrong in concluding that "he secretly wishes rather to see the Rohillah country overrun by the Marrattahs than stand forth in its defence".<sup>24</sup>

A most intriguing situation arose in the middle of 1770 by the revival of the Emperor's ambition to go to Delhi. The British were not prepared to help him in this adventure, for with the re-emergence of the Marathas it could not augur well for their interest. Their enquiry into the probable allies of the Emperor led them to conclude that neither the Vazir nor the Rohillas and Najibud-Daulah would help him to regain his throne in opposition to the Marathas.<sup>25</sup> Their estimate of the character and policy of these chiefs is noteworthy. The Select Committee concluded, "We would in short establish it almost as a certain proposition that it is contrary to the interest of any of these powers to assist His Majesty in his restoration, that singly neither of them can enter the list with the Marrattahs, and that to form them into one body in one cause is from the political genius of Hindostan, the characteristic manners of the people in general, and of the chiefs in particular, is improbable if not an impracticable event".<sup>26</sup> At the same time they defined their own policy by stating, "Whether His Majesty acts in conjunction with or against the Marrattahs it would be equally absurd in us to engage in the expedition".<sup>27</sup> Accordingly they strongly dissuaded the Emperor from undertaking the expedition and warned him against trusting the Marathas by exaggerating the dangers

<sup>20</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 31 August 1770, para 7.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, para 3.

<sup>22</sup> Letter to the Vazir of Oudh, 5 May 1770. *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol. III, No. 196.

<sup>23</sup> Letter to the Vazir of Oudh, 18 June 1770. *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol. III, No. 263.

<sup>24</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 31 August 1770, para 3.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, para 4.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, para 5.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, para 7.

arising from their aggrandisement, and the crisis was tided over for the time being.

The march of events after the monsoon—the inability of the Rohillas or the Jats to exercise a check on the aggressive intentions of the Marathas, the unseemly haste with which the Emperor was prepared to throw himself on their support and the equivocal conduct of Shujaud-Daulah—led to a positive increase in the power and prestige of the Marathas and brought into full prospect the precariousness of the Company's position. The Select Committee chafed at the restrictions placed by the Court of Directors upon their liberty of action in respect of foreign policy and military operations. They rightly argued that by the discomfiture of the Rohillas, "the dominions of the King and Sujah-ul-Dowlah will be either exposed to the depredations of the Morattahs, or the King and Vizier must join their cause. In the former case, we are bound by treaty to unsheath the sword; in the latter, we shall be compelled to it in our own defence. War therefore appears inevitable".<sup>28</sup> When again after Najibud-Daulah's death, despairing of getting any support from the English, Shah Alam resolved to throw himself into the hands of the Marathas, the situation grew worse, and the Select Committee strongly protested to the Court of Directors against "the conduct which you seem to have prescribed." They grew alarmed at the damage which would result to their interests by the Marathas having Shah Alam "at their head" or by their setting up a new ruler. They wrote, "It would give authority to every measure they may take, would draw new swarms of their countrymen to their standard, would enable them to possess countries and form alliances which at present they can have neither means nor pretence for obtaining, would in case of a rupture with the French give to our national enemies here and on the Coast all that sanction which our measures have hitherto had, and would justify the Vizier by law and perhaps by necessity in taking arms against us. The only certain means of preventing the great mischiefs, and of securing that barrier which is so necessary to the safety of your dominions, would be to march such a body of troops as might be sufficient to expell the Morattahs, to secure the safety and possession of the King's son, and to give the King what further satisfaction might be necessary".<sup>29</sup> For a bold policy as this the Directors' sanction was not forthcoming. However, the movement of Maratha forces towards the Vazir's dominions led the Calcutta Government to take the determined step of giving "such assistance to your allies as may enable them to defend their respective dominions,"<sup>30</sup> even without a requisition from them. Thus, by the end of 1770, the Company's servants in Bengal were led to take measures to anticipate the Maratha danger and be prepared to meet it. The new situation warranted it; and the interest of their security, and the magnitude of their political ambitions, provided a justification for such a conduct.

The main interest of the year 1771 lies in the progress of the Maratha armies in the Doab and the growing threat to the peace and security of the Rohillas. The nearness of the war region to the dominions of Shujaud-Daulah and the Emperor greatly alarmed the British, who not only prepared for resist-

<sup>28</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 31 October 1770, para 28.

<sup>29</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 24 December 1770, para 23.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, Postscript dated 31 December 1770, para 2.



ance but also again exhorted the Vazir to save the Rohillas from ruin. Shujaud-Daulah's attitude, however, occasioned distrust, which was heightened by the rumours of his negotiations with the enemy. The Select Committee could no longer have the same confidence in him or "be without the most serious apprehensions". They wrote, "Could we rely upon his sincerity, we should be less concerned at the progress of the Morattahs, as it would perhaps be in our power to re-establish the Rohillahs and Jauts, whenever the necessity of affairs" could justify. "But if these formidable invaders, after conquering the powers which formed the principal barrier and establishing themselves in these countries, should be abetted and supported by the Vizier, it would require all our force and all our vigilance to resist their united efforts".<sup>31</sup> Luckily for the British the situation soon altered with the return of the Maratha forces to Delhi, ostensibly at the instigation of Shah Alam, who, being disappointed at the British promises, had resolved to throw himself on the support of the Marathas in order to regain his throne. While this relieved the immediate danger to the Vazir's dominion and ultimately to the security of Bengal, there arose the imminent prospect of the Marathas gaining possession of the Emperor's person.

Cartier and his Council fully realized the magnitude of the danger and adopted every means to dissuade the Emperor from throwing in his lot with the Marathas to establish himself at Delhi. At one stage they even endorsed Shujaud-Daulah's proposal to restore the Emperor with the help of the Rohillas, firstly because "to have denied our assent to what was so improbable to happen would have weakened that tie of friendship which we wish to preserve inviolate with the King and Vizier"; and secondly because "to prevent him from listening to the persuasion of the Morattahs, we thought it better he should owe his restoration to the Vizier than to them". They further justified their action by the argument that as the King could not be prevented, except by a restraint on his person, from throwing himself into the hands of the Marathas, which "might have been attended with most serious consequences", they had no alternative but to agree to this measure.<sup>32</sup> But lack of effective aid from the British, the supineness of the Vazir and the instability of the Rohillas combined to make the effort abortive. And the inevitable soon came to pass. Shah Alam, against the wishes of Cartier and Shujaud-Daulah, finally decided to throw himself on the support of the Marathas and resolved to leave Allahabad. The British parted with him in good grace, and the Vazir gave him aid in troops and money. The slow progress of the Emperor's march sustained the Select Committee's interest for many months, till ultimately he arrived at his capital on 6 January 1772.

Possessed of the King's person and strengthened by the prestige of his title, the Marathas soon started on a further course of aggression against the Rohillas and the neighbouring chiefs. Their policy in this respect was, however, "equally various and inconsistent".<sup>33</sup> At one time Zabita Khan was supported by them, while at others his territories were attacked and his person was in danger. Their own internal differences and mutual dissensions may account for this vacillating and contradictory policy. If the Marathas had hoped to use the Emperor's name for establishing their sway in the Gangetic

<sup>31</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 18 January 1771, para. 5.

<sup>32</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 31 March 1771, para. 6.

<sup>33</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 31 August 1771, para. 12.

basin, their divisions and their fruitless Rohilla campaigns, directed more to the pursuit of plunder than to the acquisition of territory, prevented them from making any progress. The Vazir's dominions remained inviolate and the security of the British possessions continued unaffected. The probability of the extinction of the Rohilla power and the consequent exposure of Oudh to Maratha attacks led the Calcutta Government to rouse the Vazir to some activity in defence of the Rohilla. But his own ideas of self-interest and his hereditary enmity towards them prompted him to a contrary course. His reported intrigues with the Marathas, his treaties with the Rohillas, and his dilatoriness despite the exhortations of Sir Robert Barker make a sickening impression on the student of the political events of this period. The Marathas failed to gain any political advantage from the supineness of the Vazir, and were compelled even to break with the King at the end of 1772. Their behaviour at this time not only exposed their inherent weakness but also antagonised the north Indian chiefs and roused the opposition of their subjects against them, which proved destructive of their prospects of establishing their sovereignty over northern India.

The threat to the security of Bengal had passed. Nevertheless, the danger of simultaneous Maratha attacks from two directions, Orissa and Hindustan, had stared the Calcutta authorities in the face. Cartier's hope of counteracting it lay in reconciling Janoji Bhonsle on the one hand, and maintaining a barrier of friendly states in Hindustan on the other. The defection of the Emperor and the declining power of the Rohillas and the Pathans made the British rely increasingly on the loyalty of Shujaud-Daulah, whose strength was to be maintained at all costs, and whose dependence on the East India Company ensured by every means. They strove to protect the Rohillas through the agency of the Vazir, which later culminated in Warren Hastings' ignominious Rohilla episode. As regards the Marathas, the Select Committee frankly acknowledged them as a rival and hostile power, who "have taken such large strides towards the total sovereignty of Hindostan, that it behoves us to be extremely jealous of their acquiring strength on our frontiers, and this likewise interests us in any success of their arms which one day may be directed against the Company's possessions".<sup>34</sup> Herein are contained the germs of the future British policy towards the Marathas, whose supremacy had to be annihilated if the British foothold in Bengal and their imperial ambitions were to survive. Steadily and unobtrusively the march of British imperialism had commenced and in Cartier's time its ideological foundations were laid and the blueprint of its progress outlined.

### (iii) *Company's policy towards the Vazir of Oudh*

British attitude towards Shujaud-Daulah was marked by a suspicion of his intentions, which deepened at every crisis. The Select Committee did not assess Shujaud-Daulah's character high. As early as 18 March 1770, the Committee wrote about him, "In the late scenes, after fluctuating between fear and ambition, at one time reserved as if ripe for hostilities, and at another resuming his wonted confidence, he has left no honourable impression of himself on either side, and we are inclined to think he has rendered himself

<sup>34</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 26 March 1772, para. 12.

as much suspected by the native powers as by ourselves. His ambition blinds his judgment, but his timidity at the moment of execution reverses all his schemes and disarms his ambition. Such a compound in his character affords us some degree of security, for was he as brave as enterprizing the contest would not be far off."<sup>35</sup> The Select Committee's lack of faith in Shujaud-Daulah's loyalty was greatly aggravated when, on the close approach of the Marathas, reports arrived of his sending to them an envoy. His supineness heightened their doubts. Moreover his behaviour towards the Rohillas was least calculated to reassure the British, who had suspected him, not without reason, of coveting the Rohilla territory, to acquire which he was supposed to have sought even the Maratha alliance. The Select Committee had also reason to suspect him of harbouring the French, who had built for him a fortress near Fyzabad and lent the services of M. Gentil. And when the Vazir took possession of Allahabad after the Emperor had left it for Delhi, their jealousy and suspicion of him greatly increased.

However, these incidents were not allowed to affect the British alliance with Shujaud-Daulah adversely. The assurance that he must ultimately depend on the English for his security, the trend of the alliances on the other side which included parties openly hostile to the Vazir's interests, and the fast-advancing threat of the Marathas, prevented the two from drifting apart. The East India Company had no other ally except the Vazir at a time when their security was none too assured. The Vazir, on the other hand, had to depend on the British to save himself from the Marathas. Thus, each needed the other, and despite doubts, suspicions, and occasional misgivings, the friendship between them continued unabated. The Vazir gave proof of his loyalty by meeting the wishes of the Company in the matter of succession to the Benaras Zamindari and the cession of the Chunar Fortress, and finally even entered into an agreement with the Rohillas at the instance of the Company. The presence of Sir Robert Barker or Colonel Harper with him and his absolute dependence on the British Commandant helped to hold him closer to the British. The Directors also had exhorted the Select Committee to "strive by every fair and honourable means to strengthen his friendship and engage his confidence", but at the same time adding a word of caution that "you must not abate of your attention to all his motions, nor forego any opportunity to impress him with an opinion of our activity and power".<sup>36</sup>

By the treaty of 1765 as revised on 28 November 1768, the East India Company had assumed the obligation of protecting the Vazir's dominions against all enemies, and this was clear and unequivocal since by the latter treaty even the number of Shujaud-Daulah's forces was restricted to 35,000 men, including all arms. But the Directors' orders restrained them from entering into any political or military obligations beyond the frontiers of Oudh. The Select Committee wished to respect these orders, but in the face of the impending Maratha danger, it became imperative to extend British political operations beyond those limits. The Calcutta Government was keen to evolve a system of political alliances with the north Indian princes, and they desired to make use of Shujaud-Daulah for the purpose. In pur-

<sup>35</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 18 March 1770, para. 13.

<sup>36</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 50.

suance of this policy they tried to bring about an understanding between the Vazir and the Rohillas. Left to himself, as stated earlier, Shujaud-Daulah would have seen the end of the Rohilla states, and it is suspected that at one time he was even prepared to come to an accommodation with the Marathas to achieve it. But the Calcutta authorities were keen on stemming the tide of the Maratha advance by interposing the Rohillas as a barrier between them and Oudh. The Vazir was exhorted to help the Rohillas; and when the latter were in a mood to negotiate with Shujaud-Daulah, Sir Robert Barker was allowed to accompany the Vazir, as otherwise the Rohillas would have had no faith in his sincerity. A treaty was signed stipulating payment of 40 lacs of rupees by the Rohillas to the Vazir on the condition that he would "assist them in future against their common enemy, and re-establish them in the possessions which had been wrested from them".<sup>37</sup> This treaty formed the basis of the famous Rohilla war of Warren Hastings. The Company also considered Hafiz Rahmat Khan and other Rohilla chiefs as its friends and allies though no formal diplomatic alliance existed.

Thus, the military dependence of the Vazir on the Company resulting from the treaties of 1765 and 1768 inevitably led to the subordination of Oudh in respect of his foreign policy also. Whether in respect of the Emperor or the Rohillas, Shujaud-Daulah was merely carrying out the behests of Cartier and subserving British interests. He was also a mere instrument of British policy in his dealings with the Marathas. This result, it is true, was achieved not by direct instructions but by an appeal to his sentiments of fear, greed and vanity. Admonition, persuasion, and cajolery, not threats, were the weapons employed. The net of British paramountcy was gradually and imperceptibly closing on him, and the way was being paved for the frank subordination of Oudh to British policy in the time of Warren Hastings.

### *Relations with European Powers*

During 1770-2 British relations with the French were bordering on hostility though no actual breach of peace had occurred. Both the Court of Directors and the Council at Calcutta were apprehensive of French designs and suspected them of planning a sudden invasion of Bengal. Their fears were intensified by the reports of the assemblage of a large flotilla of ships and men at the Isle of France and Madagascar off the African coast, at a time when the political situation in northern India was none too favourable for the East India Company. The Directors exhorted the Calcutta Government to "continue to keep a watchful eye on the motions and proceedings of the French in particular, since the force said to be collected or collecting at the Islands cannot be considered as having only self-defence for the object".<sup>38</sup> Their analysis of the motives of the French is remarkable. They wrote, "Although political appearances in Europe are at present pacifick, we cannot but deem it absolutely necessary for you to be at all times upon your guard against a surprise, lest such be meditated by a nation whose commerce and influence having been diminished by our past successes; it may be supposed they will be ready to

<sup>37</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 10 November 1772, para. 11.

<sup>38</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 25 March 1772, para. 26.



seize the first favourable opportunity of attempting to re-establish such commerce, and to recover their influence amongst the powers of India".<sup>39</sup> That commercial jealousy was the basic factor in their hostility is fully borne out by the earlier directions of the Directors "that you live on good terms with the French, so far as may be practicable; but it is no less our wish to supplant them, as far as we may safely and prudently do it, in their commerce".<sup>40</sup> It was not unnatural for the French to seek to regain their lost influence at a time when political developments in India afforded some hope of striking at their commercial rival and national enemy.

The Bengal Government was not slow to adopt measures to counteract the hostile intentions of the French, which had the full approbation of the Court of Directors. They posted officers, ostensibly acting under the authority of the Nawab of Bengal, at Kalpi on the Midnapore coast to keep a watch on the ships passing towards the Hooghly and to report on their equipment, armour, etc. They sent the schooner *Amazon* to cruise in the Bay of Bengal up to Ceylon scouting for the enemy's ships, and employed every means to get an estimate of the French strength off the southern coast of Africa. To be in readiness to meet a surprise attack, they were loth to send their armies northwards even when the Maratha pressure there was at its highest, and actually countermanded the orders of Sir Robert Barker directing the Patna Regiment to march into Oudh. They also organised a militia composed of the European residents of Calcutta. The British Government in October 1770 sent Admiral Harland with a moderate fleet into the eastern waters.

All these precautions proved to be unnecessary as the French had no effective means at the time to disturb the repose of their English rivals in India, particularly in view of the lack of any support from the Indian powers. But a number of incidents occurred which reflected the strained relations between the two powers.<sup>41</sup> The French at Chandernagore were reported to be constructing new defences under the pretence of repairing a drain. The Calcutta Council regarded it as an infringement of the treaty of 1763, and, on the report of its Chief Engineer, secured their demolition. The Directors, while fully supporting the action of their subordinates, censured them for their delay in detecting this serious infraction of the treaty. Again, the Calcutta Council complained of the behaviour of the French towards the weavers employed by the English Company. They observed that the French "have made no investment for the present year, and their sole attention has been to recover by violent measures such balances as they may have contracted for years past, and that without much consideration of the miseries the country was lately reduced to".<sup>42</sup> This action of the French was opposed and resisted by the English agents, and the Calcutta Government instructed the Supervisors to afford protection to the weavers affected. Another incident which caused a little flutter was the anchoring of a French ship opposite Budge Budge fortifications, and the refusal of its officer to move from that position. The French Government, on the other hand, complained of the seizure of certain boats

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770, para. 50.

<sup>41</sup> See in particular *Secret Letter to Court*, 5 November 1771, for an account of the complaints of the French and the explanations given by the Calcutta Government.

<sup>42</sup> *Secret Letter to Court*, 15 November 1771, para. 22.

belonging to its subjects by one Mr. Hales for the purpose of transporting *chunam* and also of the violent behaviour of the British soldiers when they encamped near Chandernagore and their entry into their colony, for both of which reparations were claimed. The Calcutta Council promptly took measures to redress the French grievances, but expressed their rage in the remark, "Or must we rather be of opinion that our neighbours wish to snatch at every trifle that they may thereon build a foundation for such outrages as they hope will serve them for a justification of some future attack upon our settlement, that jealous of our superior greatness in this country they use every method to blacken our conduct and strive to persuade the world that we exercise our power in the oppression of their colony and wantonly misuse our authority in insulting their nation?"<sup>43</sup> They resented these "calumniating attacks"<sup>44</sup> against those on whom depended the tranquillity of the French and protection of their trade in India. The dispute concerning the alleged demolition of the drainage works at Chandernagore and interruptions to the freedom of the French commerce in Bengal led to the appointment in June 1770 of Monsieur Law and Sir Robert Lindsay by the Governments of France and England respectively as plenipotentiaries, and they were instructed to settle these and other outstanding differences. The Calcutta Council was ordered to make all the papers available to the British plenipotentiary. Strained relations between the two nations, however, continued as before, since these were based on deeper causes of national honour and imperial rivalry.

### *Revenue*

The collection of revenue, its settlement with the cultivator, zamindar or farmer, and its disbursements came within the purview of the Select and Secret Committees. The territories of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, from the point of revenue administration, may be classified into two divisions—the *Diwani* lands and the ceded or zamindari lands. The former were managed indirectly by the East India Company up to 1772 through the agency of the *Naib Diwan* Muhammad Riza Khan, and a host of native functionaries inherited from the previous regime. The latter were managed directly by the Company's servants under a Collector General, which system seems to have found favour with the Directors owing to the facility with which revenues could be collected and augmented without appreciable hardship to the people.

With the acquisition of the *Diwani* in 1765, the Court of Directors had hoped for higher revenues which might be adequate to meet the demands of their increasing investments, their commitments to the English nation, and the expenses of the civil and military administration, besides yielding a fair dividend to the Proprietors. Hence their disappointment was great when the revenues failed to show "considerable augmentations therein".<sup>45</sup> Then came the great famine of 1770, while the expenditure on civil establishments and military preparations was growing. The net collections in the year 1768-9 came to Rs. 1,52,54,856, and normally it was difficult to keep to this figure

<sup>43</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 25 August 1770, para. 57.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 58.

<sup>45</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770, para. 142.

in the two succeeding years when the famine was raging in all its horror. Remissions had also to be granted and some balances remained unrealised. The Select Committee, in their letter of 11 September 1770, pointed out, "this calamity has had its influence on the collections; but we are happy to remark they have fell less short than we supposed they would."<sup>46</sup> The net collections in 1769 for Bengal amounted to Rs. 1,31,49,148, and in 1770, the year of the famine and mortality, to Rs. 1,40,06,030. The balance to be collected in 1769 was Rs. 6,14,219, while the remissions granted were to the extent of Rs. 8,03,321. These figures do not include the revenues of Bihar and the ceded districts. In spite of the ravages of the famine the settlement for 1770-1, made on 10 April 1770, was for the sum of Rs. 1,52,46,979, which the Select Committee had "some faint hopes of realising".<sup>47</sup> The net collections of 1771, Rs. 1,53,33,660, exceeded even those of 1768. The Bihar collections for the same period came to Rs. 46,26,695, which was in excess of the receipts of the preceding year by Rs. 4,25,747. The balance there amounted to Rs. 4,56,256 including the *taqavi* loan of Rs. 1,02,000, which was to be recovered in the succeeding years. These figures do not include the collections of Calcutta, Midnapore, Burdwan and Chittagong, where also the realisations, in spite of the famine and remissions, did not reach a low level. The calamity should have brought about a diminution of revenue; "that it did not was owing to its being violently kept up to its former standard".<sup>48</sup>

The collections or settlements of revenue for the years 1770, 1771 and 1772 do not reflect the misery and starvation from which the population of Bengal then suffered. The settlement of 1770 was deemed by the Select Committee "to be rather calculated for a more flourishing state of the province than the state it was reduced to by the severity of a famine".<sup>49</sup> The settlement of 1771 for Rs. 1,66,37,147 for Bengal marked an increase of 14 lacs on the preceding one at a time when the country had scarcely begun to disclose any symptoms of recovery from the effects of the famine. This appeared even to the Select Committee "to be a very considerable addition to your annual revenue so immediately after a year which produced such variety of distress and calamity to the inhabitants".<sup>50</sup> The collections in 1771 came up to Rs. 1,53,33,660 (after deducting the amount of deficiencies owing to unavoidable losses), on which the Fort William Council remarked, "notwithstanding the loss of at least one-third of the inhabitants of the province, and the consequent decrease of the cultivation, the nett collections of the year 1771, exceeded even those of 1768".<sup>51</sup> The apologetic manner in which the Select Committee justified remissions and explained balances clearly reveals the temper of the Company's employees, whose success and efficiency were judged by their ability to collect larger revenues which were demanded by the Directors, for whom gain was their first principle, and profit motive governed their policy.

The machinery of revenue administration that had been inherited from the late government contained all the elements of a degenerated system. Clive

<sup>46</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 11 September 1770, para. 5.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 6.

<sup>48</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 3 November 1772, para. 7.

<sup>49</sup> *Secret Letter to Court*, 15 November 1771, para. 3.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.

<sup>51</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 3 November 1772, para. 6.

from policy, and Verelst from a genuine sense of the sanctity of “every symbol of the Nawab’s independent rule”, maintained the mask by having a *Naib Diwan* and collecting “their revenues by means of the indigenous machinery of the *Aumils*, *Tehsildars*, etc.”. The effects of this “divided and complicated authority”<sup>52</sup> were eloquently described by Verelst in his letter of 16 December 1769.<sup>53</sup> The Directors were also alive to the necessity of a change particularly in view of their happy experience in the ceded or zamindari districts. Hence they gradually introduced an element of superintendence and check by the institution of Councils of Revenue at Murshidabad and Patna under English servants, the *Naib Diwan* being relegated to the position of a mere salaried servant, accountable to the Council of Revenue. Meanwhile, Verelst had appointed Supervisors for every district, who were charged not only with the duty of collecting information, “but to take immediate action whenever their inquiries resulted in a detection of frauds”. These supervisory authorities were superimposed on the existing irresponsible and corrupt agency, but they failed to effect any improvement in the system. The whole machinery broke down under the stress of the famine which exposed the venality of the English and the Indian functionaries alike. The fond hopes of the Directors to carry out reforms through the agency of the Supervisors were shattered by the reports of Becher and others on the monopolising activities of the revenue officials which had aggravated the toll of lives taken by the famine. The Directors felt suspicious of Muhammad Riza Khan, whom they charged with being “guilty of great oppressions”. His conduct in forcibly compelling “the owners to sell their rice to him” at a cheap price and reselling it at high rates was considered by them to have “operated in the destruction of many thousands of people”. They were sore at this being “overlooked by those in power, who ought to have prevented him from acting in a manner so inhumane and so very unworthy of the station which he fills as *Naib Dewan* of the province of Bengal”.<sup>54</sup> At the same time they demanded an immediate enquiry into the large unadjusted balances “said to be due from Mahomud Reza Cawn on account of the Dacca revenues”.<sup>55</sup> In this background of the alleged corrupt and irregular conduct of the *Naib Diwan*, the Directors examined the state of their *Diwani* revenues, and, finding themselves “disappointed in that reasonable expectation” of “a considerable increase in the revenues”, and experiencing “such a reverse as now appears by the great diminution of the revenues”, concluded that it “must have been owing to the misconduct or malversation of those who have had the superintendency of the collections”.<sup>56</sup> They further charged Muhammad Riza Khan of “actually” collecting “large sums. . . by violent and oppressive means, . . . great part of which he has appropriated to his own use or distributed amongst the creatures of his power and the instruments of his oppressions”. The conclusion naturally followed that “the management of the *Diwanny* collections” could not be left “to him in future”. A mere change of minister “could yield us little prospect of reaping any benefit”.

<sup>52</sup> Verelst’s letter to John Cartier and the Gentlemen of the Council of Fort William, 16 December 1769; Harry Verelst, *A View of the Rise, Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal*, Appendix (No. XXVII) p. 122.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 28 August 1771, para. 18.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 19.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.



Hence they had recourse to "other means" for getting "the full advantage we have to expect from the grant of the *Dewanny*".<sup>57</sup>

Thus followed the Directors' "determination to stand forth as *Duan*, and by the agency of the Company's servants to take upon ourselves the entire care and management of the revenues".<sup>58</sup> They demanded the discontinuance of the office of *Naib Diwan*, the removal of Muhammad Riza Khan, his agents and assistants from all offices in the revenue establishment, and the employment instead of the agency of the Company's servants. Secondly, they desired their servants to take up the entire care and management of the revenues. Thirdly, they asked for the issue of such regulations as would lead to an increase in the revenues and the elimination of all intermediary oppressive authorities between the ryots and the state. The changes of 1769 and 1770 and the experiment in the ceded districts had paved the way for the assumption of the direct management of the revenues by the Company's servants without the costly mediation of a *Naib Diwan* whose princely salary the Directors had long resented. The famine and the accusations flowing from it merely provided an occasion for the final consummation of the objective long in view. The direct assumption of the "care and management" of the revenues was no new development, as the appointment of the Resident at the Court and later of the Councils of Revenue, and the exercise of the supervisory powers by the Select Committee had long before tended towards that end. The Company had also been for some time contemplating how to secure an addition to its revenues by establishing direct contact with the cultivator. Nevertheless, the Directors' instructions for eliminating the intermediary authorities were so vaguely worded that it may be doubted whether it was their main object in "standing forth as *Diwan*", which decision marks the culmination of a process which had commenced in 1765.

Effect was given to these orders by the arrest of Muhammad Riza Khan and Shitab Roy and the abolition of the office of *Naib Dewan* in both the provinces. Riza Khan's functions had included the settlement of revenues and their collection, which the Governor and Council now took upon themselves, and for this purpose they appointed a Committee of Circuit with the President as its chairman and Middleton, Dacres, Lawrell and Graham as members to settle the lands by farming them on leases of a few years "by an actual visitation of the districts and local enquiry".<sup>59</sup> At the same time the centre of collection of revenue was moved from Murshidabad to Calcutta and the Governor and Council formed themselves into a Board of Revenue for the management of revenues. Besides ensuring "immediate inspection and controul" this last measure was expected to lead to the "opulence" of Calcutta "by drawing the principal families of the country to reside here by which the demand for imports from our mother country would be greatly increased".<sup>60</sup> The Committee of Circuit first visited the district of Nadia and made a settlement of the revenues by farming out lands by public auction for a term of five years on a progressively increasing rent from year to year. This system was adopted in other districts also.

The main purpose of this reorganisation was to centralise the administra-

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 21.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 5 September 1772, para. 7.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 15.

tion of revenue at Calcutta, where a Board of Revenue and the *Khalsa* Offices with the *Rai Rayan* and other dignitaries were established. The other object, that of securing an increase in revenue, with due regard to the welfare of the cultivator, was sought to be achieved by appraising the full value of land and determining the limits of collection by forming "an entire new *hustabood* or explanation of the diverse and complex articles which were to compose the collections".<sup>61</sup> The Committee of Circuit examined the various duties and taxes which had so far been collected noting the proportion of the *asal jamma* (the original assessment) and the *abwabs* (cesses) which had been superimposed on it. They decided to abolish such of the latter "as appeared most oppressive to the inhabitants",<sup>62</sup> the chief being the *rahdary* or duties levied on the transit of all goods and necessities of life passing through the interior of the country, the *bazi jama* or fines for petty crimes, and *haldari*, a tax upon marriage. To prevent the levy of such exactions the farmers were enjoined to grant *pattas* to the ryots, and new *amulnamas* or leases were formed in which the claims of the ryots were precisely and distinctly laid down and the farmers were prohibited from making any further demands on them. No further measures were taken at the time to protect the interests of the ryots, and even the little that was done was largely neutralised by the introduction of the system of auction in assessing land revenue. The method heretofore followed was that of settling the revenue for the year with the zamindars, taluqdars or even *aumils* at the annual *poonah* (*punyaha*) at which the *Naib Diwan* and the Resident at the Court presided. The Committee of Circuit, in their desire to know what the land could yield, resorted to the method of the highest bid for letting out the farm, irrespective of the long connection and customary claims of the zamindars. This resulted not only in an immediate but a progressive rise in the revenues, so soon after the ravages of the famine. It also brought in its wake a change of great magnitude in the socio-economic structure of the country. It is, however, futile to blame the Committee of Circuit for their inability to survey and measure the lands and determine an economic rent to be paid by the ryots. The "pyramidal" method was beyond their capacity; yet no fair critic can absolve them from the charge of encouraging rack-renting and oppression, which were the unfortunate consequences of the five-year settlement. An exaggerated importance has been generally attributed to the decision of the Directors "to stand forth as *Duan*". All that it implied, or all that followed from it, was the determination of the Directors to set aside the corrupt agency of Muhammad Riza Khan and make their own servants responsible for the assessment and collection of revenues so that an increasing yield might be possible. This was achieved. The other hope, however vague, of eliminating the middleman and establishing direct contact with the cultivator and determining the scientific rent failed to materialise. Thus nothing was done which could cheer the people of Bengal and give them hopes of deliverance from oppression in the new regime.

### *Investment and Trade*

The other important branch of the East India Company's business was trade, which figures prominently in the letters of the Court of Directors and

<sup>61</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 3 November 1772, para. 16.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid*, para. 17.

of Fort William. It consisted of exports of cotton piece-goods, silk and saltpetre from India, and imports of sundry English manufactures and metals, which were then finding a limited consumption and sale in the Indian market. The Directors were very keen about the export trade, which they called investment, and a large proportion of the correspondence is taken up by references to its supply and the means of its procurement. The supply of raw silk, a new method of reeling it and the efforts for sustaining their monopoly in this article of trade are some of the important aspects discussed in these letters. As regards the import trade, there is noticeable in these letters a desire to extend its area to the neighbouring states of Oudh, Nepal, Bhutan and Assam. The other subjects that are discussed in these papers are trade by the Company's servants in salt, betel-nut and tobacco on their private account, and trade by Indian merchants in the interior of the country or between Bengal and other provinces. The Company was eager to retain its monopoly and to eliminate corruption among its servants. Private trade could be suffered only in so far as it did not militate against the interests of the Company.

Various varieties of fine and coarse cloth, muslin and coloured goods were in demand in the European market and constituted the bulk of the exports from Bengal. Among others *baftaes*, *emmerties*, *laccowries*, *mammodies*, *gurrahs*, *cossaes*, *mulmuls*, *seerbetees*<sup>63</sup> were some of the varieties which were indented for. The value of this trade may be estimated from the directions of the Court of Directors that the Bengal investment for the year 1770-1 should not fall below rupees 70 lakhs. With the prospect of increasing revenues arising from the *Diwani*, the value of investment was enhanced as the Directors regarded that "the matter of investment is of the greatest importance to our interest, because on that alone depends our prosperity and existence".<sup>64</sup> This accounts for the minute supervision which they exercised over the supplies from India, and the keen attention which they demanded from their employees, not only to the provision of adequate quantities of goods but also to their quality, sortment and proper despatch. Frequent remonstrances on the remissness of their servants in India figure prominently in the Directors' correspondence.

A new development is in evidence during this period. Heretofore manufactured goods alone formed the bulk of the exports. But the demand for an adequate supply of raw silk, and the efforts which were made for introducing the new Italian mode of extracting silk from cocoons and reeling it, clearly indicate a vital change in the character of the Indo-British trade. The export of raw materials to feed British industry paved the way for the eventual destruction of Indian manufactures in the next century. Imitating the French, the Calcutta Council started a limited export of raw silk, which found a market in England where manufacture of silk cloth was then being taken up. Because Indian silk, though not inferior to Italian or Spanish silk, could not find a ready market owing to the crude method of reeling adopted by the *chassars* in Bengal, the Directors appointed a few Italian artisans and three supervisors to introduce their method of reeling in the various *aurangs* of Bengal. The appointment of Messers Wiss, Robinson and Aubert on liberal terms, the exhortations for affording them all facilities in their work, and the constant

<sup>63</sup> Bafta, Imarti, Lakhawri, Mahmudi, Garha, Khasa, Malmal, Sharbati.

<sup>64</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770, para. 22.

references to the need for improving the quality of silk clearly indicate the growing interest of the Directors in this branch of their trade. They were not content only with the supply of large quantities of superior silk or *putney*, but also demanded the despatch of lower qualities and even waste or ferrit. To prevent the supplies to the East India Company being adversely affected they prohibited their servants or private traders from trading in silk in the *aurangs* or centres from which silk was provided. The needs of a larger supply prompted them to show interest in the welfare of the *chassars*, and for this purpose they directed the Calcutta Government to adjust the relations between the *chassars* and the *pykars* so that the former might not suffer from oppression. All these show how keen the Directors were to encourage this trade. There was at this stage no conscious attempt to injure Indian manufactures. The article was in demand in Europe, English manufacturers had taken to this industry, and consequently the Directors could expect better profits from the import of raw silk, properly reeled, from India. That it proved ultimately baneful to Indian interests and led to the complete destruction of silk manufacture in Bengal was the direct consequence of a measure, prompted by the profit motive of the Company, which ignored Indian interests.

The Governor and Council, while loyally executing the orders of their employers for a large supply of silk, sounded a note of warning against the exclusion of private traders from silk business. This protest was largely influenced by the class interest of the English private traders and the Company's servants. But they rightly pointed out that a strict adherence to the instructions of the Directors "would be ruinous to the country in effectually putting a stop to the silk trade, and thereby to the importation of silver which annually comes into these provinces for the provision of raw silk".<sup>65</sup> Their argument was that the entire produce would not be taken over by the Company, and hence for the effective culture of mulberry the surplus must be taken off by private trade. They pointed out that at every centre where silk was available and the Company's business was conducted, if the proposed exclusion were enforced, it would lead to the prevention of the 'country merchants from inland parts' from getting silk, and the industry would thereby languish. They desired, therefore, an alteration in the order sent per the *Mansfield*.

Another matter which engaged attention was the method of procurement. While in earlier times the East India Company had secured its investment by entering into free contracts with merchants for the supply of stipulated quantities of investment, in the mid-eighteenth century, and particularly after the appropriation of political power, it adopted the new method of engaging weavers or *chassars* to work on a system of advances and yield their entire produce to the Company. This necessitated the employment of a large host of *gumashtas*, *paikars* and *dalals* or agents at every factory or *aurang* in order to compel strict observance of the contracts by the weavers or *chassars*. This opened out not only the flood gates of corruption but also introduced a veritable reign of terror in the country. So long as the responsibility for government and collection of revenues was in hands other than those of the East India Company, the Directors and their servants could afford to be heedless of the growing wails of the people. But now the evil affected their own revenues.

<sup>65</sup> *Public letter to Court*, 12 February 1771, para. 30.



It also reacted adversely on the industry itself, and greatly curtailed the supply of their investment and its quality. The Directors woke up to the necessity of adopting remedial measures when they found "the once flourishing state of the commerce of Bengal" on the path of a "gradual decline". They wrote, "It gives us the greatest concern that so unhappy a change should have happened under our Government and at a time when our influence over the whole country was sufficiently established to enable our servants to remove every visible source of this unnatural decay". Therefore they proposed remedies "for restoring Bengal to its former vigour and to the full exercise and circulation of that commerce from which the Company as well as the kingdom itself had received such great and manifest advantages". Their panacea was "freedom in trade" which "is necessarily productive of its increase"; and for this purpose they ordered reversion "to your former practice of providing investments by contracts with *dadney* merchants" and by opening "your warehouses for ready money purchases" in case of the inadequacy of supplies by the *dadni* mode. This involved a clean sweep of "*gomashtas, delols* and *pykars*" not only of the Company but also of private traders and others, who were recognised to be a perpetual bar to the freedom of trade and who were guilty of "abuses, exactions and extortions". This reform was not only desirable but long overdue. The Directors, in this connection, suggested the reform of the Courts of Justice to prevent oppression "and to yield that universal relief which we are solicitous to obtain for every individual".<sup>66</sup>

This salutary reform seems to have met with little favour from Cartier and his Council. In their letter of 10 January 1772, they indicated the measures which they had adopted to comply with the orders of their employers, but were sceptical as to their success in view of the "propensity and disposition of the natives", the possible effect on the price of the investments and the reluctance of the merchants to enter into contracts. In their postscript dated 27 March 1772, however, they sought the approbation of the Directors "for considering ourselves to be under the necessity of suspending the execution of them until it can be done in a manner more consistent with your immediate interest and the general good of the country".<sup>67</sup> In justification of their action they referred to the danger of the growth of monopolies, increase in prices and a fall in the supply of investments. They also pointed to the possibility of "immediate loss of the greatest part if not the whole of the balances due from the weavers".<sup>68</sup> As practical men they had no faith that the changed mode of procurement would succeed in "removing any evils that may be existing".<sup>69</sup> Private interest, the needs of the moment and fear of change, characteristics peculiar to bureaucracy stifled these salutary measures of reform. Warren Hastings, however, made regulations with the object of reducing the cost of silk investment, of making *chassars* "more independent of the *pykars*, their ancient oppressors", and ensuring a fair price for the commodity.<sup>70</sup>

The imports brought by the Company's ships into India consisted of cannons and shells, gunpowder and other ammunitions, wines and stores of

<sup>66</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, paras. 17-22.

<sup>67</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 9 March 1772,—Postscript 27 March 1772, para. 4.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 3.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 5.

<sup>70</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 10 November 1772, para. 12.

various kinds for the use of their servants, carpeting and other articles of furniture, hats and shoes, medicines, steel, iron, copper, lead and cloth, particularly broad cloth, long ells and woollens like flannels. The quantities do not appear to have been large, and could not have counterbalanced the exports which were financed from the revenues or by means of drafts on the Directors. Sometimes the imports had so little demand that there were few purchasers in the Company's auction and even they sometimes refused to take delivery of the goods which had to be auctioned again. But the Directors were growing more and more keenly interested in this branch of their trade as is evidenced by their desire to open the neighbouring states of Nepal, Bhutan, Assam and Oudh for commerce in European commodities. They suggested the appointment of proper persons to reside at Rangpur to explore the interior parts of Bhutan and Assam. James Logan was despatched to Nepal and efforts were made to find a market for cloth and other European commodities in Tibet and western China. The Directors demanded the opening of trade relations with Oudh, as provided for under article 8 of the Treaty of 1765. But Nawab Shujaud-Daulah was reluctant to permit unrestricted trade, since it involved the export of specie from his kingdom, and there was also the danger of serious disputes arising between his people and the East India Company's *gumashtas*. But Cartier and his Council ignored these objections, and obliged the Nawab to throw open his country for trade.<sup>71</sup> All this was done because of the Directors' "earnest desire to extend the vend of the staples of this kingdom to as great a degree as possible".<sup>72</sup> This again introduced a change in the character of Indo-British trade. No longer is the East India Company content merely with the export of Indian manufactures for sale in Europe, but is anxious to supply raw materials to feed British industries and to find an easy market for the staple produce of that kingdom in India.

At the same time, in their instructions per *Lord Holland* dated 10 April 1771, the Directors desired their servants at Fort William to adopt certain measures for bringing about improvement in the commerce of Bengal, which struck at the private trade and iniquitous privileges of the Company's servants. They wrote, "From a conviction that the most effectual means to restore and invigorate the trade of Bengal will be the opening every proper channel for its extension and giving it that general freedom which is so necessary to encourage the industry and attract the attention of the natives, we can no longer permit our servants of any rank or station whatever to enjoy the exclusive privilege of *dustucks* . . . or any powers or favours which may be conferred and which can in any way yield an influence or superiority or favour of one more than another and this without the least distinction to nation or complexion".<sup>73</sup> All *chaukis*, excepting the nine general ones "established for collecting the duties payable to the *Circar*", were to be abolished as they acted as impediments to internal trade. The Directors further instructed that "no oppressions or impediments be laid" on the commerce of the "natives" up and down the river so that "the passage of their goods be facilitated by all possible despatch".<sup>74</sup> Orders were at the same time issued for throwing open trade in

<sup>71</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 9 March 1772, para. 30.

<sup>72</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 16.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 30.

salt, betelnut and tobacco which had remained a monopoly of the Company's servants. The withdrawal of special privileges, the discontinuance of the salt monopoly, and the prohibition of private trade in silk were measures necessary for abolishing private trade, which had been a crying evil of the Company's administration. Whether the motive was the purification of the Company's service, or the elimination of vexatious competition in their own trade, or the restoration of prosperity to the famine-scared and long oppressed population of Bengal, whose poverty was adversely affecting the Company's revenues, it is difficult to determine. Perhaps all these factors influenced the decision of the Directors.

The members of the Calcutta Council under Cartier did not submit with alacrity to the suppression of their privileges. They gave effect to the orders of the Directors, but when they found that the withdrawal of *dastaks* had reduced the gains of the members of the Council they suggested the revival of the monopoly in salt alone for their benefit. Yet their most "feeling" representations to the Directors did not bear fruit. Private trade by Company's servants did not cease. All that was achieved was to place the English trader on a footing of equality with the Indian merchant. It was only under the later Governors that the Company's service was purged of this corrupt tradition of private trade. At this stage only the iniquities from which the Indian merchant suffered were removed.

### *Government and Constitution*

The Government of Bengal was still nominally held by the *Nawab Nazim* of Bengal. But "since the acquisition of the *Dewanny*", as Clive wrote, "the power formerly belonging to the *Soubah* of these provinces is totally in fact vested in the East India Company. Nothing remains to him, but the name and shadow of authority".<sup>75</sup> The Nawab had, in the words of Prof. D. N. Banerjee, "gradually become a mere stipend-enjoying figurehead, a 'pensioner of state', a rubber stamp for the use of the Company's agents in Bengal".<sup>76</sup> By the treaty with Najmud-Daulah, the government was carried on by Muhammad Riza Khan, the *Naib Subah*, who was also later appointed *Naib Diwan* by the Company. The allowance of the Nawab had been fixed at 36 lakhs of rupees which included the charges of maintaining the troops required for the collection of revenues etc. All the powers of the *Nizamat* were exercised by Muhammad Riza Khan, who was accountable to the East India Company. He was also the controller of the Nawab's household and supervised the disbursement of his allowance. Thus, by virtue of its control over the purse, and by exercising superintendence over the administration through its creature Muhammad Riza Khan, the Company had reduced the Nawab of Bengal to the position of a mere puppet, maintained as a mask to hide the real repository of power from the eyes of the European powers and the English nation.

There was a series of rapid successions to the *masnad* during these years. On the death of Najmud-Daulah, his brother Saifud-Daulah came to the *gaddi*. The latter died of smallpox on 10 March 1770, when his younger brother

<sup>75</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *Early Administrative system of the East India Company in Bengal* p. 84.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 88.

Mubarakud-Daulah, a child of ten years was elevated to the Nawabship by the Governor and his Council. The Calcutta Government hoped that this arrangement would prove most consistent with the Company's interests as it was in accordance with the Directors' instructions and "a popular election in the eyes of the natives".<sup>77</sup> The same allowances were settled upon the child. A new treaty was also drawn up on the occasion, and the Emperor's formal investiture was also secured for him.

But the Directors had other views of their interest. They noted "with astonishment that an event of so much importance as the death of the Nabob Syful Dowlah and the establishment of a successor in so great a degree of non-age should not have been attended with those advantages to the Company which such a circumstance offered to your view".<sup>78</sup> They objected to the continuance of the same stipend as had been "allotted to his adult predecessors".<sup>79</sup> Hence they ordered its reduction to 16 lakhs of rupees during the minority of Mubarakud-Daulah to prevent its being "wasted on a herd of parasites and sycophants who will continually surround him, or at least to be hoarded up, a consequence still more pernicious to the Company".<sup>80</sup> This step was taken to relieve the Company to a certain extent of the heavy charges on the *Diwani* revenues. At the same time they discontinued the allowance paid to Muhammad Riza Khan as *Naib Diwan*, and ordered his appointment as the guardian of the young prince on a salary of five lakhs of rupees.

Before this change, the Government in Calcutta had been contemplating a plan to replace the guards of the Nawab by three battalions of Company's sepoys so as to increase the "establishment of sepoys for the service of revenue collections"<sup>81</sup> without involving an additional strain on the Company's finances. But this plan had to be abandoned owing to the material reduction in the Nawab's stipend.

Later when Muhammad Riza Khan was dismissed, the Directors ordered the appointment of a new guardian in 1771. They wrote, "we are fully sensible of the expediency of supporting some ostensible Minister in the Company's interest at the Nabob's Court to transact the political affairs of the *Circar* and interpose between the Company and the subjects of any European power", and desired their Governor and Council to select "some person well-qualified for the affairs of Government and of whose attachment to the Company you shall be well assured" as "Minister of the Government and guardian of the Nabob's minority" on a salary of rupees three lakhs a year.<sup>82</sup> In pursuance of these orders, Warren Hastings appointed Munni Begam, whom he deemed qualified by "her high rank and abilities . . . to represent the dignity of the family without any danger to the Company from such pretensions as might be apprehended from any male relation of Jaffier Aly Cawn or from the ambition of any other man of consideration to whom such a trust might be delegated".<sup>83</sup>

<sup>77</sup> *Select Committee Letter to Court*, 18 March 1770, para. 15. The Directors had, in their letter of 16 March 1768, fixed the line of succession in the family of Mir Jafar, and had also determined the amount of the allowance.

<sup>78</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 36.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 37.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 38.

<sup>81</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 9 March 1772, para. 51.

<sup>82</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 28 August 1771, paras. 24-5.

<sup>83</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 5 September 1772, para. 14.



During all these days there was a definite attempt to dissociate Nand Kumar from any close contact with the Nawab. The transactions in these three years further emphasised the insignificance of the Nawab in the political structure of Bengal. By the end of 1772, effective measures had been taken to collect all the threads of administration, revenue, judicial and police, in the hands of the Company's servants, and fully safeguard the Company's position as the supreme authority in Bengal.

The Company's governmental machinery long continued to bear strong traces of its commercial character. This was natural as long as the primary concern of the President and Council was to provide investment, and the Councillors were primarily chiefs of factories whose merit was assessed by their success at the counter. Nevertheless, with the growing volume of political business and the responsibilities arising from the assumption of the *Diwani*, fresh agencies were evolved to cope with the new type of business. The Directors were fully conscious of the change and strove to readjust their machinery to suit the novel situation. They appointed special Commissioners in 1769 to overhaul their administrative system in India. But the Commissioners were unfortunately shipwrecked on their way to India. The trend of the instructions given to them was, however, communicated to the Fort William Government and certain important changes were effected in the constitution of the Presidency during the years 1770 and 1772.

We need not here describe the administrative machinery and the changes made therein before 1770, which have been so minutely described by Prof. D. N. Banerjee in his book *Early Administrative System of the East India Company in Bengal*. Suffice it to say, that every Presidency was governed by a President or Governor with a Council who was directly accountable to the Court of Directors in England, the supreme authority of the East India Company. Every Presidency was independent of the other. The Directors had contemplated the institution of a limited central authority in India for political and military purposes in their instructions to the Commissioners, but this reform did not materialise before the passing of the Regulating Act of 1773. The Governor may be regarded as *primus inter pares* in relation to his Council. He had, however, gradually acquired a position of pre-eminence owing to his having the special privilege of correspondence with the country powers, to his being vested with the supreme military authority, to his being invested with extraordinary powers in times of emergency and to the influence he wielded in filling vacancies in the Council and the Select Committee from among the civil servants. He was the first man of the European community in the Presidency. The prestige of the Governor had greatly enhanced since the time of Lord Clive, who enjoined the Council "to make the power of the President appear as extensive as possible in the eyes of the people".<sup>84</sup> Nonetheless, the change found no recognition in the constitution except in so far as the Court of Directors had mentioned in 1769 "that our Governor is to all intents and purposes the Commander in Chief of our force and whatever orders he sends to any officer must be obeyed",<sup>85</sup> and had further laid down in their letter of 23 March 1770 that "the Governor singly shall correspond with the country

<sup>84</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 187.

<sup>85</sup> *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. V, p. 218.

powers".<sup>86</sup> His emoluments and the prestige attaching to the office also made him important.

The Council was the main authority for transacting all business which had not been specifically transferred to the Select Committee. Its strength varied from time to time from nine to sixteen members. It consisted of the President and eleven other members when the orders of the Directors, dated 23 March 1770, were received for its reorganisation. They fixed the number at nine besides the Governor and the Commander in Chief who was now to have a seat in the Council. Generally the vacancies in the Council were filled by the President and Council from among the senior servants of the Company, for which definite rules had been prescribed by the employers. Sometimes senior servants from other Presidencies were also selected. Some of the members were appointed as chiefs of the factories and consequently lived away from the seat of Government. Such a position was no longer convenient owing to the change in the character of the administration which called for the Councillors' constant presence at the capital and their undivided attention to the functions of supervision and control. The Directors, therefore, required, "That none of the Council be permitted to act as Chiefs of any of the subordinate factories, but shall all constantly reside at Calcutta, the Resident at the Durbar, if that office shall be filled by a Counsellor, and the Military Commander excepted. That no member of the Council shall have any employ annexed to that station, but that all offices be executed by the senior servants not members of the Board".<sup>87</sup> The reduction in the number of Councillors was effected, though not without remonstrance from some junior members who had been displaced.

The Directors also ordered "that the said Council be formed into proper committees so that the controul, superintendency and direction of the Company's affairs at the Presidency and subordinates may be faithfully and impartially transacted to their greatest benefit and advantage".<sup>88</sup> In the first instance, the Directors had ordered that these committees should consist of four members each, but by their letter of 18 December 1771, they raised the number to five and laid down as a rule "that no orders be conveyed to any of the persons under the direction of each committee respectively until such orders shall have been first approved in committee by three or more of the said members of Council, appointed to form such committee".<sup>89</sup> Five such Controlling Committees were formed for Treasury, Revenue, Commerce, Accounts and Military. Regular days were fixed for their meetings. The formation of these Controlling Committees did not affect the existence of "the Committee for Defence in case of attacks", provision for which had existed since 1758 and which comprised the Governor, Commander in Chief and Chief Engineer.

The most important of the Committees was, however, the Select Committee which had intermittently existed since 1756. Generally it included the Governor and four other members of the Council, and sometimes the Commander of the forces was also its member. In 1770 its composition was fixed by the Directors as three senior members of the Council, the Commander in Chief and the

<sup>86</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770, para.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 179.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>89</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 18 December 1771, para. 23.

Governor. Its powers were also defined. It was competent "to make regulations respecting peace and war, and negotiate with the country powers but not finally to conclude any treaty, until the terms and conditions of such treaty shall have been first approved by our Governor and Council".<sup>90</sup> All letters sent by the Governor to the country powers as well as those received by him were to be laid before the Select Committee "for their information and consideration"<sup>91</sup> or approbation. But prior to such delimitation of its functions, the Select Committee had been exercising more extensive powers. Its jurisdiction comprehended the conduct of "everything that relates to the Country Government, either with respect to the *Duannee* or the Company's political interests with the neighbouring powers, together with the military operations depending thereon". It embraced negotiations "with the *Soubah* and the country powers", and superintendence of "the collection of the revenues arising from the *Duannee*".<sup>92</sup> Hence, on the subject of the enforcement of the Directors' instructions of 1770, the Select Committee came into conflict with the Council, as both of them claimed supervisory powers over the machinery of revenue administration, and both based their claim on the orders of the Court of Directors. The matter was referred to the Court by both the agencies, whose proceedings were replete with recriminations exposing fully the existence of an ugly state of disharmony and division in the Company's service in Bengal.

The Directors took a serious view of the conflict which "occasioned an extraordinary waste of time".<sup>93</sup> They ordered immediate execution of their instructions according to the judgement of the President and Council, and confined the Select Committee to the functions "which are particularly specified in our letter dated 23rd March 1770".<sup>94</sup> In a subsequent despatch they entirely disapproved the opposition given by "our Select Committee to a measure which was positively ordered"<sup>95</sup> by them, and expressed their "displeasure"<sup>96</sup> by removing Becher from the Council and Kelsall and Floyer from the service. Thus terminated an unhappy incident which clearly exhibited the demoralisation of the governing agency in Bengal and its proneness to corruption and irresponsibility.

The reorganisation of the administrative machinery in 1771, the enlargement of the Council so as to have fourteen members, and the setting up of Controlling Committees not only strengthened the government but also contributed to efficiency and expedition in the discharge of business. It was an early attempt at transforming a commercial concern into a political organisation.

The Government of Fort William was subordinate to the Court of Directors and in every manner accountable to it for its actions. It derived its powers from the Court, whose instructions and orders were implemented by it. Nothing trivial or insignificant relating to commerce or administration of Bengal escaped the attention of the supreme authority in England, which issued peremptory orders and positive instructions for implementation by its servants

<sup>90</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770, para. 180.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>92</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 290.

<sup>93</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 155.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 156.

<sup>95</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 25 April 1771, para. 1.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 2.

in Bengal. At the same time, the Directors desired detailed information on every matter and insisted on the transmission of the proceedings of the Council and of various committees, as well as copies of all papers relevant to the administration and trade of their possessions. Any neglect in this matter was visited with strong strictures and poignant remonstrances. The failure of the Fort William Government to send copies of earlier books and records met with a severe rebuke in 1771. Obedience to their orders and subservience to their authority were frequently enforced by the Directors by means of penalties which extended even to the dismissal of the Governor and members of the Council, or to recovery of damages from the members. Their displeasure was often expressed in strong sentiments when any servant or member of the Council was found remiss in his duties. But if penalties were sometimes imposed by the Directors, at other times the actions of the employees earned their approbation and encomiums and brought rewards in promotion and preferment. But, on the whole, they were hyper-critical of their employees and believed in holding the reins tight. They did not like any criticism of their orders by their servants, who did not hesitate to make strong representations when the Directors' instructions affected their emoluments, for instance in respect of private trade. The Directors had frequent occasions to admonish them about their negligence in providing investment or its proper despatch, and did not hesitate to remonstrate with the Council for accepting extravagantly high contracts for the supply of war material or in respect of constructions. They did not fail to express their disapprobation when the Council failed to pay the Navy Donation or repeatedly neglected their orders that no bills should be drawn on them. Such frequent denunciations by the Directors of the actions of the Bengal Council provide apt illustrations of the former's desire to exercise effectively their controlling authority. Nevertheless, except in matters relating to revenue, finance or trade, considerable discretion was allowed to the authorities in India.

### *Services : Civil and Military*

The East India Company's services, on the civil side, were organised on a commercial basis, and neither by the nature of recruitment nor by training were suited for the business of administering a vast territory. Ordinarily every servant started as a writer, being recruited in England by the Directors at the tender age of sixteen, and sent to India on an indenture or covenant initially for a term of five years. The letters of the Court of Directors give long lists of new writers assigned to Fort William and sent by the ships of the season. After serving five years as a writer, a servant could gradually rise to the successive positions of a factor, a junior merchant, a senior merchant, a Councillor and even a Governor, if he showed capacity and was favoured by patronage. Ordinarily, seniority was the basis of promotion. The covenant had to be renewed with every promotion and an increasing security was demanded from the servant proportionate to his rank in service. The salaries were low, a writer starting service on £5 a year, and these were fixed on the supposition that a servant would enhance his emoluments by resorting to private trade which was permitted.

No change appears to have been made in the general organisation of these services after the assumption of political power in Bengal. But in the altered



circumstances it was unlikely that the services would remain unaffected by the vices associated with uncontrolled and irresponsible authority. Corruption became universal. Abuse of authority grew into an epidemic. Greed and profit motive got the better of the sense of loyalty, service and fairplay. When fortunes could easily be made, scruples vanished. Indiscipline, licentiousness and extravagance became common. Not only did this tendency affect the well-being of the people, but it also reacted on the revenues and the commercial profits of the East India Company. The Directors grew alarmed and made frequent attempts after 1762 to tighten control and thereby purge the services of dishonesty, speculation, extortion and corruption. The text of the covenant was revised three times between 1756 and 1772, so as to embody conditions of service suitable to the needs of the time. The covenant of 1756 incorporated clauses enjoining the servant to keep the Company's secrets, to obey orders of the Court of Directors, to do nothing prejudicial or damaging to the Company's interests, to give intelligence of all "deceits, wrongs, abuses, breach of orders, inconveniences and hindrances"<sup>97</sup> which he might have reason to suspect, not to overcharge the Company for the goods bought, not to accept gifts in respect of any commercial transaction, and to redeem his debts owing to the Indian merchants. To prevent extortion of money and other valuables from Indians by resorting to violence or other abuse of power, the Company was empowered by the terms of the covenant to enquire into allegations of crime and to make the guilty servant pay back the amount by way of reparation to the injured party. This covenant was revised in 1764 so as to make it unlawful for any servant, without the Company's sanction, to "accept, take or receive" or even agree to accept "any gift or grant of lands, or rents or revenues issuing out of lands, or any territorial possession, jurisdiction, dominion, power or authority whatsoever", from any Indian Prince, his minister, etc., "for any service or services," or even to accept "any gift, reward, gratuity, allowance, donation or compensation in money, effects, jewels or otherwise howsoever", exceeding the value of Rs. 4,000.<sup>98</sup> All such gifts had to be made over to the Company. It was a timely and salutary restraint rendered necessary by the ugly developments at the time in Bengal.

The growing evil was sought to be repressed by a further revision of the covenant in 1772. The new covenant incorporated all the clauses of the two earlier documents and included besides a provision for restraining the Company's servants "from assisting foreign companies or supplying country powers with warlike stores"<sup>99</sup> such as muskets, artillery, etc. The penalty for acting contrary to the covenant was dismissal from service and removal to Europe. A clause was also added for preventing the continuance of any servant, merchant, etc., in Bengal beyond a year after his resignation or dismissal from service, and the Governor was given adequate powers to enforce the rule. This was in accordance with an Act of Parliament, 9 Geo. I, C. XXXI, information of which was communicated to Fort William by the Directors in their letter of March 1770. While authorising<sup>†</sup> action and justifying the measures adopted against Bolts, the Directors had written, "This power ought to be very tenderly exercised in all cases, and only for the sake of public good, where the privileges

<sup>97</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 320.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 329.

<sup>99</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 85.

and commerce of the Company are invaded by such offenders, their regulations violated and their European or Indian enemies abetted and supported".<sup>100</sup> The new covenant was to be signed by every member of the service, civil and military, including "all surgeons and free mariners",<sup>101</sup> defaulters being punishable with dismissal and transportation. They were, moreover, required to name two persons in England who would stand surety and enter into security bonds for a sum fixed according to the rank of each covenantor, which varied from £10,000 for the Governor to £500 for a writer.

It has been mentioned earlier that promotions were made generally by the rule of seniority. But for appointment to the Council from among the senior servants, the Directors were anxious that no one should be promoted unless the Governor and Council were "fully satisfied that his 'abilities, integrity, circumstances and good character in general' rendered him fit for so important a station".<sup>102</sup> Hence they desired, in 1765, regular reports about their servants from the Governor and Council. A failure on their part brought the just admonition of the Court in 1770. At that time they re-emphasised the orders of 1765 in respect of filling vacancies in the Council. For other appointments, however, even in 1770, seniority in service constituted the main claim. The Directors desired this principle to be given every reasonable encouragement unless disability or dishonesty in a senior servant justified his supercession. In 1771, however, in the matter of filling chiefships of factories, etc., while adhering to the principle of seniority "in all cases where the same can be observed without prejudice to the interests of the Company", the Directors made it clear that it was not their intention "that seniority alone should entitle them to enjoy such posts as require not only an undoubted integrity but also a competent degree of ability and attention".<sup>103</sup> Seniority and merit were thus the criteria of promotion in the services of the East India Company.

As has been mentioned earlier, the salaries paid by the East India Company to its servants were scandalously low and meagre. But they were expected to supplement their income by private trade, which brought ample returns and made the Company's service extremely lucrative. Political power directly contributed to the enhancement of such profits. New avenues of gain were opened to them which brought opulence to the servants of the Company, and the large remittances to England in money and diamonds bear testimony to it. However, the Company withdrew the privilege of private trade from its senior servants and forbade them to indulge in inland trade, but, as a compensation, allowed them a commission on the *Diwani* revenues in order "to give them a reasonable encouragement to exert themselves with zeal and alacrity in their several Departments."<sup>104</sup> In their General Letter to Fort William, dated 20 November 1767, the Directors issued instructions for reserving for this purpose a sum equivalent to 2½ per cent of the net *Diwani* revenues and defined the mode of its distribution among the various grades of the superior service. The commission was to be paid to the Governor, members of the Council, Commander in Chief, colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors of

<sup>100</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770, para. 90.

<sup>101</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 86.

<sup>102</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 198.

<sup>103</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 28 August 1771, para. 28.

<sup>104</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 20 November 1767, para. 105.

the army. Some junior military officers also were granted a gratuity or donation out of it. But the chiefs of factories were not given any share. The Governor was allotted a major share in view of his having relinquished all shares whatsoever in private trade and also all presents and gratifications. The amount which he thus received was about two lakhs of rupees a year, which was in addition to the salary of £3,000 per annum, besides his share of the mint duty and consulage. The total income of the Governor was in the neighbourhood of three lakhs of rupees a year. The next man who acquired a large share was Major General Sir Eyre Coote who was granted  $1/18$  of the total amount of commission. The shares of the other servants were also in addition to their salaries and diet money.

The distribution of the commission money in 1767 had left a balance of about  $1\frac{1}{3}$  lakhs, which the Directors ordered to be credited as unappropriated fund, from which they intended to benefit their servants in Bombay. In 1769, the Fort William Government allowed it to be distributed among the chiefs of the factories of Patna, Kasimbazar and Dacca, and the surgeons of the army, which was wholly unauthorised. That brought forth a well-deserved rebuke in 1770, and the members of the Council were ordered to reimburse the Company to the extent of the sum so spent. By the same letter the Directors ordered a redistribution of the commission money. Out of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent commission on *Diwani* revenues,  $1/18$ th was to be paid to Sir Eyre Coote; the balance was to be divided into 100 shares, which were to be distributed in the following manner:—

Governor . . . . .	31	shares.
Second of Council . . . . .	$4\frac{1}{2}$	„
Sir Robert Barker . . . . .	$5\frac{1}{2}$	„
Seven Members of Council . . . . .	2	„ each
Colonels . . . . .	5	shares to be divided amongst them equally.
Lieutenant Colonels . . . . .	$8\frac{1}{2}$	shares to be divided equally amongst them.
Majors . . . . .	$5\frac{1}{4}$	„ „ „

The unappropriated balance was to be available for distribution to the members of the Bombay service.

The Directors were not happy over the deterioration in the morale of their servants and issued stringent regulations to ensure discipline and to prevent their lapsing into corrupt practices. The Company's servants were prohibited in 1766 from lending money to zamindars and others at exorbitant rates of interest, a practice which had caused obvious difficulties in the collection of revenues. And in 1772, the Calcutta Government forbade collectors of revenue to lend money to zamindars, etc. The Directors were also solicitous of the interests of the poor and exhibited virtuous rage when they heard of the charges against their servants during the famine, "especially natives of England, for monopolizing grain, and thereby aggravating the woes, and, no doubt, increasing the numbers of wretched mortals".<sup>105</sup> They ordered an impartial enquiry and directed immediate dismissal of any servant who was found guilty,

<sup>105</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 28 August 1771, para. 9.

“as a warning to all persons not to contribute towards oppressing the poor, which we are determined never to permit whilst in our power to prevent it”.<sup>106</sup> At the same time they were keen on checking extravagance in the subordinate factories where “large sums have been expended for the gratification of private vanity under a pretence of supporting the rank the Company holds in the Empire of Indostan”.<sup>107</sup> They prohibited holding of parades and such other demonstrations of dignity by chiefs of factories. A stringent control was exercised on the *Bakhshi's* accounts. The Calcutta Government was also not immune from extravagance, and a severe remonstrance was administered to it when plates, pictures, etc., were purchased for the Governor's use.

Individual “extravagance and dissipation” was also condemned. Many junior servants lived beyond their means compelling them to contract loans and be indebted to their banians. In 1767, the Governor was asked “to have the expenses of the young servants reduced within moderate bounds”, and appropriate regulations were made prohibiting writers from keeping palanquins, or horses, or country houses, or more than one servant. Their intemperance and extravagance in dress were also to be checked by fixing a standard “relative to rank and fortune”.<sup>108</sup> Disobedience was to be punished by suspension from service. The evil does not seem to have disappeared and the Directors were constrained to issue instructions on 25 March 1772 to the effect that if any junior servant on account of his “extravagance and dissipation”<sup>109</sup> contracted debts the payment of which he evaded by escaping from the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court, he was to be forthwith dismissed from service and sent to Europe. But these salutary restrictions do not appear to have exercised any healthy control over the servants, for the evil had not disappeared at the time of Warren Hastings.

Cases of corruption, embezzlement of Government money, taking contracts, and extravagant expenditure in constructions of fortifications and buildings were so frequent as to call for particular mention by the Court of Directors and occasional punishment of the offenders. They wrote, “We . . . see with concern to what attacks the Company's property is exposed from the insatiable thirst of gain which some would not scruple to gratify”.<sup>110</sup> This evil seems to have been particularly prevalent among the military officers. An interesting instance is that of contracts for draught bullocks. Another remarkable example is the criminal waste in the construction of the barracks at Berhampore. The audacity with which the Company's servants defrauded the Government is clearly exhibited in the case of Forbes who submitted “fraudulent” accounts regarding the constructions at Berhampore. In his defence he affirmed “that he is thoroughly convinced his transactions will bear the test of any comparison you may choose to make with the accounts of any gentleman who holds an office of this nature under the Company, and desires the reasonableness of his charges may be determined by some such standard”.<sup>111</sup> Brazen-faced he sought justification in the prevalence of it among his peers. The trial of Cap-

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 12.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 30.

<sup>108</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 350-1.

<sup>109</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 25 March 1772, para. 115.

<sup>110</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770, para. 76.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 64.



tain Mackenzie and similar other cases during the administration of Cartier are some of the glaring instances of demoralisation and corruption among the East India Company's servants, both civil and military.

A remarkable instance of the private interest of the Company's servants overriding the public interest, and of the disregard of the wishes and positive orders of the Court of Directors by the Governments of Fort William and other Presidencies, is provided by the indiscriminate drawing of bills on the Company in England in the year 1770 for the purpose of transmitting the surplus money acquired by the civil and military servants. The increasing sources of gratification opened up by the new political power brought vast sums into the hands of the servants who wanted to send them home. It was Lord Clive's hope that the inordinate gains soon after the acquisition of the *Diwani* would not be a normal feature. But it appears that large sums were seeking remittance every year for which the Company's bills as well as French bills were equally in demand. The Directors had realised the gravity of the problem, and were afraid of the financial difficulties to which the Company's affairs would be exposed, if the Bills drawn upon them from India exceeded a certain amount. They had issued orders from time to time limiting the sums for which their servants were authorised to draw upon them. The limit fixed in 1768 and 1769, which was quite liberal, was exceeded in 1770-1 by the Fort William Government presumably on the following grounds: firstly, to provide a fund for emergencies; secondly, to prevent the French and Dutch Companies from finding money for providing their investment and thus competing with British trade; and thirdly, to meet the growing expenditure on civil and military establishment at the time. The result of their action was that in 1772 the East India Company was faced with a serious financial crisis. The Directors took a strong view of the conduct of their servants and expressed their resentment at the "license you have taken in deviating from our express and positive orders".<sup>112</sup> In their letter of 23 September 1772 they renewed their "peremptory injunctions", not to issue bills beyond the limit of £100,000. Again, on 24 November 1772, the Court of Directors remonstrated with the Calcutta Government against the "unwarrantable conduct" of drawing for one million sterling which had led to the inordinate "want of cash"<sup>113</sup> and prohibited them from drawing any bills in 1773. The matter was so serious that it occasioned an enquiry by the Parliamentary Committee of Secrecy in 1773 which failed to support the pleas put forward by the Governor and Council of Fort William, who seem to have been influenced more by the interests of the Company's servants than the resulting distress of their employers. The account of bills of exchange and sets of certificates sent by almost every ship of the season reveals the extent of the drain of wealth from Bengal in the shape of remittances by the Company's servants, and brings to light the magnitude of private gain which fell to the share of the Company's servants. Large sums were also deposited by them in the Company's Treasury in Bengal in interest notes pending the issue of bills of exchange.

The standard of discipline, too, was not high. There were occasional representations by civil servants against the orders of the Court of Directors, and sometimes the Council itself used strong terms in taking exception to the

<sup>112</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 September 1772, para. 5.

<sup>113</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 24 November 1772, para. 12.

instructions sent from England. An apt instance is that of a remonstrance and representation of grievance made in 1771 against the inadequacy of allowances paid to the senior servants below the rank of Councillors. The main argument was that the meagreness of the emoluments exposed them to temptations "which their situations must naturally offer".<sup>114</sup> The military officers were always prompt in making representations when they felt that their just claims for promotion had been ignored. The General Letters of the Council of Fort William abound in references of this nature. It was even customary for some officers to repair to England for the purpose of making personal representation to their employers in the hope of better success there. The Calcutta Government took objection to this mode and wrote to the Directors that all such "remonstrances should always be made in writing and transmitted through the regular channel of our public advices".<sup>115</sup> The Directors also expressed their disapproval of this practice and issued definite instructions on the subject in their letters of 10 April 1771 and 25 March 1772. They enjoined that if any officer returned to Europe without waiting for their orders on his written representation submitted through the Governor and Council, he would be deemed to have been dismissed. It was necessary to adopt these stringent measures to check the growing evil of officers going on leave and returning, which caused endless difficulties and often led to an increase in the superior establishments.

It appears from the correspondence that there was a tendency at this time in the military services to disparage and defy the civil authority whom the Directors had invested with controlling and supervisory powers. An important case of this nature was the trial of Captain David Mackenzie who was found "guilty of disobedience to an order sent him by the Chief Mr. Alexander".<sup>116</sup> He was arrested and sent for trial by a court martial. The court was represented by the Governor and Council to have been infused with the "spirit of reducing the authority of the civil power over the military".<sup>117</sup> Party spirit governed the decision and the Government was led to censure the conduct of the court. This, however, was an extreme case.

The Directors also grudged the increase in the civil and military establishments which had largely added to the Company's expenditure in India. They desired retrenchment, and in their letters of 1772 suggested various economies. The military expenses had gone up considerably, particularly owing to the increase in the number of field officers and the various allowances which they earned. A reduction in their number and strict adherence to the limits imposed were enjoined by the Directors. They compared the expenses in Bengal with those of Fort St. George and desired a decrease in the forces as well. The Committee of Secrecy also made a thorough examination of the subject. It was, however, impossible to effect any economy owing to the responsibilities of defence which devolved on the Bengal Establishment.

### *The Judicial System*

The right conferred by the grant of the *Diwani* included, besides the function of collecting revenues, the administration of justice. As in revenue the

<sup>114</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 2 April 1771, para. 5.

<sup>115</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 31 March 1772, postscript, para. 3.

<sup>116</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 10 January 1772, postscript, para. 1.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*

East India Company was content to leave the administration of justice in the hands of the existing Indian authorities and made no change in the judicial system immediately after the grant of the *Diwani*. The first effective alterations were, however, made in 1772, subsequent to the Directors' decision to "stand forth as *Duan*". The plan for the administration of justice, as laid down by the Committee of Circuit and approved by the Council of Fort William, was communicated to the Court of Directors along with the letter of 3 November 1772. The Seventh Report of the Committee of Secrecy of the Parliament of the year 1772-3 reviewed the position as it then prevailed, to which reference may be made for a fuller information on the subject. Prof. D. N. Banerjee has also described the system very comprehensively in his book already referred to.

The judicial machinery, at the time of these changes, may be classified into (1) the indigenous Mughal system which had survived the shocks of anarchy, and (2) the East India Company's courts in Calcutta which derived their authority from the charters issued in England and which were modelled on the English system. The modifications of 1772 affected only the former, and the Company's servants or the European residents of the Presidency still remained subject to the jurisdiction of their separate courts. The Regulating Act of 1773 introduced certain changes in the latter as well.

In Bengal, according to the Parliamentary Committee Report, there were four kinds of courts "for the exercise of criminal, civil, religious and revenue jurisdiction". In the districts, the criminal and civil courts were presided over by the raja or zamindar who profited by the fines imposed and shared in the recoveries made in civil suits. There was no definite and "regular system of law" except the injunctions of the Quran. "The necessary consequence of so imperfect a system of law", the Committee concluded, "rendered the exercise of criminal and civil judicature in Bengal, in a great measure discretionary". Their view was that people were reluctant to resort to these tribunals, which fact was responsible for the prevalence of the practice of referring disputes to arbitration. There were also appellate courts at the capital; but the witnesses before the Committee were of the view that the Government "not only exercised a discretionary power over the proceedings of the courts, but frequently gave such remedy or inflicted such punishment, as they thought proper, without the interposition of any judicature". Process of law was costly, and owing to the absence of subordinate courts in the districts, poor people were excluded from "the possibility of obtaining justice by law". Influential people were seldom subject to the authority of the courts. For religious cases there were separate courts for the Muslims and the Hindus, in which the law was administered by the *Qazi* and the *Mufti* or the Brahman. Similarly, cases concerning land rents or revenue were "under the cognizance of a peculiar court in every district" which was subject to the zamindar and later to the *Naib Diwan*. Such courts, in the chaotic conditions of the time when despotism was the one principle of government, had degenerated into mere "instruments of power rather than of justice" and were "often the means of the most grievous oppression under the cloak of the judicial character".

The successive revolutions in Bengal, which aimed at the establishment of British political influence, also very grievously affected the courts of justice. The last of these in 1764 "rendered the administration of justice in the judi-

cature of the country very liable to be swayed or influenced by any servant of the Company, whose situation gave him an opportunity, and whose interest afforded him incitement, to interfere in any of their judicial proceedings". It was stated that even the "banyans of English gentlemen entirely govern the courts of judicature, and that they even frequently sit as judges in these courts". The oppressive conduct of the *gumashtas* and their open defiance of all judicial procedure alarmed the Court of Directors, who, in their letter of 10 April 1771, recommended the application of effectual means to prevent these agents "from exercising abuses, exactions and extortions", and suggested "due execution of justice in the several courts . . . to afford the oppressed natives all such relief as may encourage them to pursue with alacrity their several occupations and by convincing them of the benefits of our influence excite them to recompence by their industry, the attention of their benefactors".<sup>118</sup> This called for a reform and reorganisation of the judicial system which was given effect to by the changes introduced in 1772.

The East India Company could not long remain oblivious of the intimate connection between prosperity and an effective judicial system. In the interest of their revenue and trade, therefore, the Directors sought improvement in the indigenous machinery soon after the grant of the *Diwani*. The Commissioners were enjoined, in 1769, "to correct without delay, all such abuses" in the judicial system as might tend "to the oppression of the natives", and to "use the most effectual means for rendering their properties less precarious, and their possessions more permanent".<sup>119</sup> The Fort William Government was also not inactive and, without wholly altering the system, brought the entire machinery directly under the supervision of the Company's servants—Supervisors in the districts and the Resident at the Durbar in the capital. The proceedings of the courts were submitted to them before the execution of the sentences. Justice being an attribute of sovereignty, an insidious attempt was being made to subordinate it to the Company's Government, without an open avowal of the change.

The tendency of reform had been in the direction of establishing lower courts in the districts, of abolishing the power of the judges to impose arbitrary fines, of encouraging the more frequent use of arbitration in suits relating to property, of scrutinising the competence of Hindu and Muslim judges to dispense justice, of maintaining proper record of the cases decided and sentences passed, and finally of bringing the judicial machinery more and more under the direct control and supervision of the East India Company's Government. In all these measures the motive of securing easy and inexpensive justice to the people and protecting them against oppression is clearly visible. The new plan adopted by the Committee of Circuit in 1772 might thus be regarded as the culmination of that process which had commenced soon after the grant of the *Diwani*, for it brought the judicial machinery wholly and directly under the control and superintendence of the President and Council at Fort William. It provided for the establishment of two courts in every district, the *Diwani Adalat* for the trial of civil cases such as those relating to property, inheritance, marriage, caste, debts, contracts, rents, etc. ; and the *Foujdari Adalat* for taking

<sup>118</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 21.

<sup>119</sup> Instructions to the Commissioners, 15 September 1769. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, vol. V, pp. 241-2.



cognisance of all criminal cases such as murders, robbery, theft, felony, forgery, frauds, assaults, frays, quarrels, adultery, etc., and all breaches of peace or violent invasion of property. Corresponding superior courts known as *Sadar Diwani Adalat* and *Sadar Nizamat Adalat* were to be established in Calcutta with appellate jurisdiction. In the capacity of the *Diwan*, the Company's Government had direct authority over the *Diwani* courts so that the collector presided over the district court and the *Sadar Diwani Adalat* had the President and Council as judges. The nominal authority of the *Nazim* over the criminal courts was retained by having the chief officer of the *Sadar Nizamat Adalat*, the *Daroga-i-Adalat*, appointed by him. In the districts, justice was administered and law expounded by the *Qazis* and the *Muftis* assisted by *Maulavis*. But in respect of these courts also the power of control was vested in the President and Council at the centre, and in the Collector in the districts.

The regulations of 1772 also reveal the intention of the Government to make justice more easily accessible, cheaper and less arbitrary: emphasis was laid on the mode of settling disputes by arbitration in suits relating to debt, contract, etc., but with the proviso that the creditors must not exercise "judicial authority over their debtors" and were to be directed "to prefer their suits to the established court of *audawlut*".<sup>120</sup> It was also laid down that in all cases relating to inheritance, marriage, caste and other religious usages, the suits were to be decided according to the respective laws of the Hindus and the Muslims for expounding which Brahmans and *Moulavis* were to be called to the court.<sup>121</sup> The Fort William Government claimed, by these measures, to have "endeavoured to establish on the most equitable, solid and permanent footing" a system of judicial administration. They also wrote, "We have endeavored to adopt our regulations to the manners and understanding of the people, and exigencies of the country, adhering, as closely as we are able, to their antient usages and institutions".<sup>122</sup> The form of the existing system was, of course, adhered to, but it was to be shorn of its abuses. The Committee of Circuit, in their letter of 15 August 1772, clearly expressed the basis of the plan by stating, "We have confined ourselves with a scrupulous exactness to the constitutional forms of judicature already established in this province, which are not only such as we think in themselves best calculated for expediting the course of justice, but such as are best adapted to the understandings of the people. Where we shall appear to have deviated in any respect from the known forms, our intention has been to recur to the original principles, and to give them that efficacy, of which they were deprived by venal and arbitrary innovations, by partial immunities, granted as a relief against the general and allowed abuse of authority, or by some radical defect in the constitution of the courts in being; and these changes we have adopted with the less hesitation, as they are all of such a nature as we are morally certain will prove both of general satisfaction and general ease to the people".<sup>123</sup> The existing structure was retained by making it simpler and more effective as a means of administering justice. Yet a major change was made in so far as the courts now formed an intrinsic part of the British system of government, and administra-

<sup>120</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 484.

<sup>121</sup> For a detailed account reference may be made to Appendix 2 in the *Seventh Report of the Committee of Secrecy*, 1773.

<sup>122</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 3 November 1772, para. 40.

<sup>123</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 488.

tion of justice came to be wholly controlled by the Company's European servants. The Company's sovereignty was now complete.

In Calcutta there existed two kinds of courts, one having jurisdiction over the Indian residents and the other over the European inhabitants. In the capacity of the Zamindar, the East India Company established courts at the Presidency town similar to those in the districts in Bengal, and they were presided over by the Company's servants, the President and Council retaining the right of revision. It seems that in criminal cases involving capital punishment the sentence was executed by the Company as Zamindar without reference to the *Nazim*, contrary to the usage of Bengal. When the system was revised in 1772, Calcutta and the 24 Parganas formed one jurisdiction and the *Diwani* and *Nizamat Adalats* with English presiding officers were established on the pattern of the courts in the districts". The members of the Council were to exercise control by rotation.

The jurisdiction of the Zamindari courts being limited, and ineffective over the European part of the residents, the East India Company sought a charter from the Crown to be able to institute an adequate machinery of justice. The revised charter of 1753 governed the constitution of such courts at Fort William. It provided for the establishment of a Mayor's Court with a Mayor and nine Aldermen to "determine all civil suits, actions and pleas between party and party"<sup>124</sup> as also to try cases in which the Company was a party. Appeals from the decisions of the Mayor's Court were to lie with the President and Council, who were formed into a Court of Record. Appeals from their decisions could be made to the King in Council, if the amount exceeded 1,000 pagodas. There was also to be a Court of Request for the recovery of small debts, the procedure of which was a summary one. For criminal justice, the charter ordained the Governor and Council to be Justices of the Peace and have power to act as such, and to hold quarter sessions of the peace, and also to be Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer, and General Gaol Delivery, for trying all offences (high treason only excepted), committed within Calcutta and the subordinate factories. These courts made provision for justice, both civil and criminal, for the European part of the population. The Indian subjects were excluded from the operations of the Mayor's Court, unless they chose to place their disputes before it. The writs of these courts could not apply to any place outside the Presidency town and its subordinate factories.

The Parliamentary Committee of 1772 was not satisfied with either the efficiency or the independence of these courts. The fact that the judges were appointed by the Government and could be dismissed by the Governor and Council, made them "exercise their judicial functions at the pleasure" of the Government, which affected the independence of their judgment in cases in which either the Company or its principal servants were involved. Moreover, the judges did not know English law which they were supposed to apply, a circumstance which marred their efficiency as instruments of justice. The Committee also felt that the restrictions on their jurisdiction made these courts inoperative in respect of a large number of Europeans who resided in the interior of Bengal outside the Presidency or its subordinate factories, which contributed to their lawlessness and iniquitous conduct.

<sup>124</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 545.



In the correspondence reproduced in this volume, there is reference to three cases which reflect upon the integrity of the judicial authorities at Fort William and which called for the interposition of the Directors or brought deserving censure from them. The first case was that of the dismissal of Bolts from the office of Alderman and his deportation to England, presumably owing to his being odious to the Fort William authorities. His appeal to the King in Council against the decision of the local authorities was allowed and he was permitted to return to Bengal and resume his office. There is also mention of Cator's dismissal from the office of Alderman by the Mayor's Court, an appeal against which was preferred to the King in Council. More serious, however, were two other cases, the dismissal of Whittall from his position as an attorney, and the wrongful confinement and detention of Jephson and his wife. Both these matters brought well-deserved rebuke on the local authorities and exposed the partisan character of the Mayor's Court. The judgment in Whittall's case being referred to their counsels by the Directors, it was found that the Mayor's Court had passed its orders "without specifying any particulars of the bad conduct Mr. Whittall was guilty of". Thereupon the Court of Directors wrote, "such general charges of misbehaviour without facts are very gross and unbecoming a court of justice, and have more the appearance of private resentment than public good, especially from a court whose orders may be reversed by appeal".<sup>125</sup> The Governor and Council were ordered to have a retrial. But Jephson's case was the occasion of severe strictures on the President in Council owing to his refusal to entertain an appeal, "against the interlocutory orders or sentences of the Mayor's Court".<sup>126</sup> The Directors characterised the treatment of Jephson and his wife as oppressive and unjust. Their indignation found expression in the following words: "It is with much concern and indignation we observe our courts of justice prostituted to such purpose as must carry with them not only an indelible reproach to the courts themselves but to that Government by which they were instituted".<sup>127</sup> They ordered that an appeal should be filed against the judgment of the Mayor's Court. In Whittall's case, the behaviour of the Mayor himself was the subject of enquiry, but the Governor in Council absolved him of any inadvertence on the basis of evidence tendered before them. These cases exhibit most prominently the defects in the judicial system and led to the wholesome changes introduced by the Regulating Act.

The Company's Government had also been empowered to institute courts martial for the trial of offences committed by the officers of the army. A very important case was the trial of Captain Mackenzie for his misconduct and extortionate behaviour in Rungpur while he was the Commander of the *pargana* sepoy there. As an off-shoot of this case was the charge levelled by Grant against Lawrell and Purling, members of the Council, which led to a conflict between Major Morgan, the judge of the court martial, and the civil authority. Such courts martial were frequent at the time. The Government at Calcutta was even prepared to extend their jurisdiction to the offences committed by civilians, Indian or European, living within the limits of the cantonments, owing to the absence of any other adequate judicial machinery. But this was

<sup>125</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 3 May 1771, para. 7.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 12.

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 14.

no longer necessary after the reorganisation of the judicial system in 1772. The Directors reviewed the decisions of the courts martial and demanded full record of their proceedings, presumably because they had little confidence in the judicial integrity of their servants. The subordination of the military to the civil authority was a cardinal principle of the Company's Government.

### *Fortifications, Buildings, etc.*

The finances of the East India Company were severely strained by the extravagant expenditure on the construction of the cantonments in Dinapore and Berhampore and the New Fort at Calcutta, besides some fortifications on the river and at Budge Budge. The building of the factory in Chittagong and the addition of apartments at Motijhil in Murshidabad for the assistants of the Council of Revenue, together with the purchase of a house for a hospital in Calcutta at an exorbitant cost, were other heavy items of expenditure on buildings. These charges "have been so great a drain upon your treasury", wrote the Directors, "as to contribute to effects severely felt by us, especially in the mode of providing our investments".<sup>128</sup> Inadequate supervision coupled with the chicanery of the English contractors, some of whom were also servants of the Company, occasioned excessive increase on the estimated cost. The case of the Berhampore cantonment is an apt illustration. The original estimate of three lakhs of rupees was exceeded four times and yet the construction was not completed even though no barracks were erected for the sepoys. The Directors charged the Chief of Kasimbazar with neglect for failing to prevent "the long continuance at least of almost all those frauds which have taken place, and thereby that enormous excess of expence which has been incurred".<sup>129</sup> Even the Governor and Council were not considered "altogether blameless" as they had allowed the abuses to continue long before ordering effective enquiry.<sup>130</sup> Similar was the case with Chittagong, Dinapore and Fort William constructions. The Directors were constrained to order the immediate cessation of all new constructions, and imposed a limit of £100,000 for expenditure in one year for completion of the buildings in hand.

There is also mention of the construction of new docks on the Hooghly by Major Watson, who had taken contract for the completion of Dinapore and Berhampore cantonments.

The correspondence of these years is replete with references to the repeated expressions of displeasure of the Directors at the utter neglect and absolute lack of supervision by the Governor and Council. Private interest, favouritism and collusion were responsible for the criminal waste of the revenues of Bengal. It is therefore not surprising that the Directors poured forth their ire on the Fort William Government.

### *Coinage*

In the Fort William despatches is narrated an attempt to reform the coinage of Bengal. Uncertainty about the value of the coins in circulation,

<sup>128</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 25 March 1772, para. 41.

<sup>129</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770, para. 61.

<sup>130</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 62.

and the difference in the standard and weight of silver in the rupees coined at the various mints of Bengal, occasioned great inconvenience to trade and led to exploitation by money-changers, who charged *batta* or discount. The coins of previous years were also accepted at a discount owing to their depreciation and were thus lower in value than the current ones. To remedy this defect, the Directors had suggested reform of the coinage. The President and Council issued certain regulations in 1771, which were communicated to the Directors in the letter of 30 August 1771. The most important change was "That the *11 sun siccās* should not fall in their value but should pass on the same footing as *siccās* of the present and every future year throughout all the provinces, and that whenever new *siccās* of any future year should be issued they should not reduce the *siccās* of the former years as far back as the *11 suns* to the state of *sonnauts*, but they should all be considered and pass in payment at the same value as the *siccās* of the current year".<sup>131</sup> The *sicca* rupee was thus made the "established standard coin of the country by which the value of others would be always determined, and consequently by depriving this standard of its annual fluctuations, the most essential part of the plan would be carried into execution".<sup>132</sup> Uniformity of coinage and invariability of value were to be secured by these measures. The coins issued earlier than 1770 were liable to discount or *batta* owing to their becoming *sonnaut*, but subsequent coinage was to be exempt from this handicap. The new coins were issued in September 1771, but by an unfortunate mistake in the mintage of the Patna coins, there was a difference in value between them and those coined at Murshidabad, which defect was remedied later. These regulations mark a real advance and resulted in the expansion of trade and facility in the collection of revenue. The peasantry was also saved from the great loss and inconvenience which it had previously suffered owing to the deduction of discount at every payment of revenue.

### *Bengal and other Presidencies*

Of the five settlements of the East India Company in the east, Fort William alone had adequate resources in money or military power to extend help to the other Presidencies. The Directors utilised this situation and directed the Government there to divert part of its *Diwani* revenues to China and the other Presidencies in India. There were occasional demands for cash from Canton, Bencoolen or Bombay which it was difficult for the Fort William authorities to meet always. Moreover, goods in demand there were also to be supplied from Bengal. Very frequently the Directors specified the goods which had to be sent to China. When the proposal for taking possession of the island of Balambangan was mooted, the Fort William Council was ordered to provide cargo consisting of "ferrit goods, *humnums*, *cossaes maulda*, *baftas*, *rommals*, *taffetas*, blue cloth, *chuppa rommals*" as well as opium, which must be sent. These goods were supplied and additional consignments of opium were also provided. Similarly saltpetre and silk were sent to Bombay and rice to Madras. China had a market for opium which was exported from Bengal.

<sup>131</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 30 August 1771, para. 28.

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 29.

But more frequent were requisitions for the supply of cash to China or Bombay, which the Calcutta Government was unable to meet owing to an unprecedented shortage of silver. It was, however, practicable to meet the demand from Bombay by procuring bills for the amount required. In 1770, a sum of twelve lakhs of rupees was sent there in cash or in bills. Next year again nine lakhs were remitted there, but when Bombay demanded fourteen lakhs more only seven lakhs in bills were sent. The Council was opposed to remittance of cash lest it should lead to the diminution of money in circulation in Bengal. Even Madras felt the need of money for supply to China, and Bengal gave eight lakhs of rupees in 1770. The demand from China and Fort Marlborough was continuous and had to be met from Bengal occasionally, though not without considerable inconvenience and difficulty. It has been calculated that between 1761 and 1771, Bengal remitted to other settlements a net amount of £2,358,298. About £100,000, a year was the regular remittance to China, and £160,000, a year on the average to Bombay. It was this help which was referred to when the Governor and Council at Fort William wrote to the Directors on 9 March 1772, "It has always been our aim to afford all the assistance in our power to your other settlements considering them equally with our own as conducive to your interests".<sup>133</sup> It was the surplus of the Bengal commission money which made possible the payment of commissions to Bombay servants and a sum of 1½ lakhs was sent there every year.

Apart from the monetary assistance, the Fort William Government rendered aid to Fort St. George when the latter was involved in a conflict with the ruler of Mysore. Moreover, when in 1772 there was an apprehension of Maratha invasion and danger of shortage of grain and money in Madras, the Calcutta Council assured the Madras Government of their assistance. Reinforcements of troops from England were sometimes diverted from one Presidency to another. Mutual aid and common effort to secure the Company's possessions and position marked the relations of the three Presidencies in India. The resources of Bengal were used by the Directors for building up their commerce in the eastern lands and for the foundations of their influence and empire there.

### *Drain of wealth and the condition of the people*

An important immediate effect of the grant of *Diwani* was the excessive drain of wealth from Bengal. Ever since the revolution of 1757 enormous gains had been made by the English servants of the East India Company, which they remitted to England by various modes. But while private advantage had increased there had been no systematic and continued exploitation by the Company in the earlier years. With the vast potentialities opened by the grant of the *Diwani*, this was now possible, and during the period that followed there was an increasing drain of wealth from the country leading to untold suffering, impoverishment and almost a revolution in the economic life of the country.

Its first symptom was the unprecedented diminution of specie, particularly silver. Besides the payment of tribute to the Emperor and the expenditure

<sup>133</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 9 March 1772, para. 22.



on the military establishment at Allahabad which caused remittance of silver to the Upper Provinces, which did not normally return through the medium of commercial transactions, the silver stock of the province of Bengal was depleted by supplies to China, Bombay, Bencoolen and the cash carried in chests by the Company's ships. The Directors were keen that Bengal should meet the requirements of the China trade; and despite their own difficulties, the Governor and Council of Fort William had to keep Canton supplied with specie. From a statement in the Third Report from the Committee of Secrecy of 1772 we find that out of the sum of £2,859,678, remitted to the other settlements in ten years, between 1761 and 1771, £1,591,696, was in bullion alone besides bills worth £926,768. In the last two years while the remittance of bullion decreased the amount remitted by bills showed a considerable increase. Between 1765 and 1771 the remittance of bullion came to £1,284,007, and bills and goods to £763,457; whereas remittances before 1765 were comparatively small, those after the grant of the *Diwani* had increased considerably. No silver was sent to England.

While on the one hand continuous depletion occurred owing to these remittances, on the other the stream of supplies which was flowing earlier into the country from Europe had now ceased because it was no longer necessary for the English Company to bring money for the purchase of its investment from Bengal. The territorial revenues were used for this purpose, and in ten years (1761-71) the total of goods supplied at prime cost came to £5,291,368. Between 1765 and 1771, the cargoes supplied to Europe were valued at £3,942,119, which may be regarded as Bengal's tribute to the East India Company. The Company's investment was thus provided out of Bengal revenues and the province got no fresh stocks of bullion from England. It was expected that other European companies would continue to import silver for making their purchases. The Directors and the Calcutta Government both made earnest efforts to compel them to bring in fresh stocks of specie. But their needs were met by the English servants and merchants who were only too willing to give the foreign companies their hoards of silver in exchange of bills to be realised in England. Enormous private incomes, legitimately or illegitimately derived, were seeking remittance to England, which made it unnecessary for any silver to be imported into Bengal for the purchase of goods. The result was that no more silver was received and the Bengal finances were almost on the verge of a breakdown.

The Bengal Council had been conscious of the impending crisis since 1765. The position grew extremely critical in 1768 owing to "the alarming prospect of a scarcity of silver".<sup>134</sup> and the subject figured prominently in the correspondence of that year. With the passage of time the situation grew worse. In 1770, the Council reported "general distress of the merchants arising from the great scarcity of silver specie that prevailed".<sup>135</sup> They were unable to meet the demand from Canton or Bombay owing to the "general scarcity of silver or specie"<sup>136</sup> in Bengal. During these years the province had a very small margin of bullion. The evil was aggravated by restrictions on trade as a consequence of the monopoly of the East India Company in silk,

<sup>134</sup> D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 98.

<sup>135</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 25 January 1770, para. 51.

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 39.

which prevented a flow of specie from other parts of the country. The Calcutta Council while protesting against the orders of the Directors relating to the trade in silk gave a cogent analysis of the decline in prosperity. They wrote in April 1771, "It must be first considered that this country solely depends on its fertility and manufactures for its riches . . . and that the exchange of the manufactures for specie during a long succession of ages is the true source of its reputed opulence. Any regulation which must decrease the imports of bullion does in effect strike at its prosperity . . . It must be confessed the Honorable Companies' provision of an investment gives a subsistence to many thousands of people ; but as their investment is provided by the money which arises from their revenue it cannot be considered as adding in the least to the opulence of the country and the drain which has been open for some years past requires to be stopped from the distress the country at present suffers through a want of that specie which has been carried out of it".<sup>137</sup> Decrease in trade with Agra, Gujarat, Malabar and other parts of India, provision of the Company's investment out of the *Diwani* revenues, and the meeting of the needs of the French and other European companies out of the accumulated wealth of the English merchants and servants of the Company, all contributed to the impoverishment of Bengal. But even in that low ebb of its prosperity the drain of wealth did not stop.

This situation reacted on trade, industry and general prosperity of the people. The East India Company's monopoly deprived the merchants of their principal source of profit. The mode of providing investment, and oppression consequent on the employment of an army of *gumashtas* killed initiative and damped enterprise which affected industry. The Directors were not ignorant of "the present declining state of the country".<sup>138</sup> They knew how "the weavers and manufacturers" had "long groaned under the oppression of such petty tyrants" as the *gumashtas* and agents of the Company, and suggested measures to improve their lot.<sup>139</sup> The woeful tale of suffering of the people under the cruel oppressions by the Company's Indian and English servants is narrated in the contemporary records, letters of Becher and the Supervisors and in the writings of Verelst, Bolts and many other Englishmen. The cultivators groaned under heavy exactions of revenue which showed a continuous tendency to rise. Indiscriminate resort to farming, even to the extent of putting lands to auction, resulted in rack-renting, and soon led to the miserable poverty of the peasants and the ruin of the prosperity of the zemindars. Nor could the Nawab of Bengal retain any vestige of their earlier affluence. Successive extortions by the Company's servants had depleted the Murshidabad treasury. The new administration had led to the opening of the flood-gates of corruption, bribery and peculation. It is no wonder that people suffered. The famine of 1770 was both a consequence as well as a symptom of the poverty and misery of the people, occasioned by the unwise and shortsighted policy of exploitation pursued by the Company's Government.

### Conclusion

Cartier left Bengal after his dismissal in 1772 and Warren Hastings assumed the reins of administration. The three years covered by the correspondence

<sup>137</sup> *Public Letter to Court*, 2 April 1771, para. 11.

<sup>138</sup> *Public Letter from Court*, 16 April 1771, para. 17.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid*, para. 21.



in this volume were mostly the period of Cartier's rule. Judging from the famine and the economic decline of the country, it may be presumed that his administration was not conducive to the happiness of the people. It is true that the state of affairs was quite bad when he took over. But he was not gifted by genius and character to rise above the circumstances and could not suppress the corrupting influences which surrounded him. He was incompetent to stamp out corruption. He lent himself to factions and thereby aggravated division, dissension and indiscipline. He grew to be a champion of the private interest of the Company's servants. It is no wonder that he suffered rebuke and closed his career with the ignominy of dismissal.

Yet credit must be given to Cartier and his Council for steering the ship of state through two serious crises, the domestic one of famine in Bengal, and the external one of the growing menace of Maratha supremacy in northern India and the consequent danger to the English security in Bengal. He exhibited a rare political insight and by adopting a policy of forbearance and sticking to the alliance with Oudh saved the East India Company from trouble. More remarkable, however, is his analysis of the political situation of India and the corresponding policy for the Company's Government. In his time were explicitly visible the traces of an imperialist policy. Cartier was not the man to exploit the situation. His sole claim to recognition is that he paved the way for Warren Hastings, who directed his energy to the reorganisation of the revenue and judicial administration and established the rule of the East India Company on a solid foundation.

These years mark a transformation in the spirit and outlook of the East India Company. The commercial profit motive yields place to a sense of political responsibility, and the trading Company slowly changes itself into a political power, establishing its empire over India. These years are years of transition which have left their deep stamp on subsequent developments.

LETTERS FROM COURT



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1770

*Shipping news—appointment of Coote as Commander in Chief:  
his conditions of service, status and duties.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Under the 7th of last month we wrote to you by the ships *Europa* and *Valentine*. Triplicate thereof goes a number in the *Vansittart's* packet.

2. By the *Vansittart*, *Egmont* and *Verelst* now under dispatch, you will receive this letter, purposing to write more fully by the latter ships, that we may have sufficient time to make our remarks upon your advices received this season now under our consideration, as well as those received by the *Shrewsbury*, which arrived in the Downes the 13th December; and we have the pleasure to advise you that the *Talbot* arrived in the Downes the [. . .] instant.

3. As the ships bound this season to the Coast and Bay<sup>1</sup> cannot take in all the tonnage intended for your Presidency we have been obliged to load a considerable part thereof on those consigned to Fort St. George, and we have directed that Presidency to forward the same to you by the first safe conveyances with the invoices and bills of lading.

4. We have paid Captain Purvis one hundred guineas for the passage of Mr. Bolts, who you sent home on the *Valentine*, upon the Captain's representing that he was put to an extraordinary expence on Mr. Bolts's account, and had not received any consideration from him for the same.

5. Although we hope that you will not be disabled by an insufficiency of tonnage to return to us all the ships consigned to you this season, nevertheless if you shall find it indispensably necessary under that circumstance or from any unforeseen events to detain any one of them in the country until the following season, we direct that the *Europa* be the ship to be fixed on for that purpose, and in the meantime employed in the most advantageous manner for our service.

6. Captain Purvis of the *Valentine* having lately brought from India a large quantity of Madeira wine for sale, thereby frustrating the intentions of furnishing our settlements therewith at a reasonable rate, we have resolved to restrain so prejudicial a practice, and direct that you inform the captains, they are not to bring home more of that article than shall be sufficient for their own use in the homeward voyage, or that you may licence to be shipped as presents, and also to acquaint them respectively that we shall not fail particularly to resent any disobedience of this order.

7. In assistance of the tonnage to be returned from all our Presidencies by the ships going out this season, we direct that 2,500 tons of saltpetre be provided at your Presidency for that purpose, and you are to concert with the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay as to the quantities they may

want for loading home the ships to be returned from those settlements accordingly.

8. In our letter of the 10th November we acquainted you of our having appointed Major General Coote to be Commander in Chief of the Company's forces agreeable to the enclosed copy of our commission.

9. Although Major General Coote may, by virtue of our commission, command the troops at any of our Presidencies, yet as his services are more immediately wanted at Fort St. George, he is to proceed to that Presidency. But if the Carnatick should be in a state of peace and tranquillity, and either he, the Commissioners,<sup>2</sup> or in their absence the Governor and Council, should judge it necessary for the good of the service that he should proceed to either of the other Presidencies, the Commissioners, or in their absence the Governor and Council are to determine on the expediency of such a measure; but they must first take Major General Coote's opinion on the same with his reasons at large. And this general rule is to operate in like manner during his stay at any of the Presidencies when his proceeding from thence to another shall be requested by himself or the Governor and Council thereof, with this exception that a requisition of his presence at any of the Company's settlements made by the said Commissioners must at all times be complied with so soon as may be. And as it is our intention to avail ourselves of his military abilities in that part of India where he may be most wanted, it must be observed as an invariable rule that he do not depart from the Presidency where he is resident without the permission of the Commissioners or in their absence of the Governor and Council.

10. Fully convinced of Major General Coote's abilities and knowledge of military matters we order and direct that he be called in by the Commissioners appointed to superintend the Company's affairs in the East Indies, whenever he shall be present where they may happen to reside, in order to assist them with his advice and opinion in all their deliberations on military and political affairs. He is accordingly to have a seat and voice with them as Commander in Chief of our forces next below Colonel Forde<sup>3</sup>; but in case from his appointment there should at any time happen an equality of voices, it is then our positive order that the first named Commissioner present at such deliberations shall have the determining voice in the decision of such questions as shall relate to military and political matters. It is our further order that at any of the settlements where Major General Coote shall be resident he have a seat and voice in the General Council as well as that for the Military Department, also in the Select and all other committees, next to our President in like manner as General Lawrence had. You are nevertheless to observe it is not our intention that he ever shall be Governor of Bengal or any other of our Presidencies as every vacancy of Governor is to be supplied by the senior civil servant in Council according to the custom of the Company, unless we have given or shall hereafter give any orders to the contrary.

11. In consideration of the rank Major General Coote holds by His Majesty's commission, and in order to place him on the footing of allowances superior to the present commanding officers in India without incurring a more considerable charge than by the appointments which were assigned to General Lawrence, it is our order that General Coote be allowed a salary of £1,500 a year to be paid him out of our cash at Fort St. George or such other Presidency



at which he shall reside by quarterly or half yearly payments to commence upon his arrival, and that one-eighteenth part of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent commission on the net territorial revenues in Bengal is to be deducted out of the full commission and remitted to the General wherever he shall reside, and the

Para. 118. remainder thereof is to be distributed according to our directions in the General Letter to you of the 20th November<sup>4</sup> 1767, also that he be further allowed one-twenty-fourth part of the commission of five per cent taken on the farmed revenues of Fort St. George and its subordinates to be deducted in like manner from the said commission, and the remainder thereof to be distributed according to the directions in our General Letter to Fort St. George dated the 25th March 1768.

12. We further direct that Major General Coote's travelling charges in going from one Presidency to another be borne by the Company, and that whenever it may be necessary for him to take the field he is in such case to be allowed in addition to his beforementioned appointments the sum of ten pounds sterling a day for the expences of his table and field equipage, and that on days of marching (and not otherwise) he be sup[p]lied by the Commissary with thirty coolies to assist in carrying his baggage.

13. He is to be provided with a house or apartments suitable to his rank and station at such Presidency where he shall reside.

14. You are to observe that the beforementioned salary and allowances are to be in full consideration for Major General Coote's service as Commander in Chief, also for assisting at the Board of Commissioners, and as a member of Council and of the Select and all other committees, and which allowances are not to be exceeded on any pretence whatsoever.

15. That you may be properly acquainted with the abilities and characters of such military officers as may in future be appointed or promoted at your Presidency whenever Major General Coote shall happen to be there, you are hereby ordered and directed previous to such appointments or promotions to take his opinion and advice on the merits and abilities of such officers. However, this is not intended to lessen your authority in the promotion of officers, but that you may be more fully informed of their respective merits and services.

16. We do not intend by the appointment of Major General Coote to be Commander in Chief of our forces to lessen the allowance to Brigadier General Smith<sup>5</sup> otherwise than by the proportion which Mr. Coote is to enjoy in the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent commission allowed on the revenues, and therefore we direct that the present pay of General Smith with the proportion of the commission on the revenues settled by our letter of 20th November 1767 are to be continued to him.

17. However, the continuance of these appointments and seat and voice at the Council board to Brigadier General Smith must not hereafter be drawn into precedent, it being our express order that no future first in command on your establishment shall bear a commission superior to that of colonel or receive a larger proportion of pay and of the emolument from the revenues than are allowed by the beforementioned letter of 20th November 1767 during General Coote's stay in India.

18. The returns of the Company's forces in all India are to be regularly made to Major General Coote as Commander in Chief at such periods as he shall point out, and as the forming and regulating our forces at the different Presidencies on one regular and uniform plan of discipline has been strongly recommended by him as a point of the utmost importance, such orders as shall be established for that purpose under his hand and communicated to you by the Commissioners for our affairs in the East Indies or by the Governor and Council of the settlement where General Coote shall reside are accordingly to be put in execution.

19. At the particular instance of Major General Coote, we have allowed Mr. John Grant to embark with him as his Secretary, and being well satisfied of Mr. Grant's merits and abilities from his former behaviour in our service, we have permitted him to proceed to and remain in India while the General does, and given him a brevet as Major in the East Indies; and he is to enjoy the allowances annexed to that station, but he is not to be appointed to any corps in the Company's troops as it is not our design that he should supersede any of the officers of that rank by this appointment.

20. We have been informed that Mr. Albert Jones who has been an officer in His Majesty's service is gone to India in His Majesty's frigate *Aurora* with an intent of being employed in our service; but as Mr. Jones has not our permission for proceeding thither, we direct that he be not employed by you in any station whatever in our service, either in a civil or military capacity.

21. We have drawn upon you one sett of bills of exchange for two thousand rupees or pounds sterling two hundred at 2s[h] the current rupee and thirty days sight payable to James Alexander Esqr. received of Mr. George Richard Foley dated the 5th January, 1770.

We are,  
Your loving friends

G. Colebrooke / Perc. Cust / Hy. Crabb  
Boulton / John Harrison / William  
Snell / J. Purling / Fredk. Pigou / Jn.  
Woodhouse / John Motteux / Chas.  
Boddam / George Cuming / W. G. Freeman / Peter Du Cane Junr. / Wm.  
James / J. Roberts / Ben. Booth / Rd.  
Bosanquet.

London,  
January 17th, 1770.  
(*Per Verelst*,  
the 3d July 1770.)

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1770

*Shipping news—recruitment of Italian silk reeling experts—Peacock and Christie permitted to go to Bengal to develop trade relations with Morung.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. By the *Vansittart* we wrote under date of the 17th instant, duplicate thereof is sent by the *Egmont*, also triplicate of our letter of 7th December.

2. By the *Talbot* and *Shrewsbury* lately arrived from your Presidency we received the undermentioned advices *vizt.*

<i>General Letter dated.....</i>	<i>2d March 1769</i>	<i>per Talbot</i>
<i>General Letter from the Select Committee</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>do do</i>
<i>General Letter.....</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>do</i>
<i>do.....from the Select Committee</i>	<i>6th April</i>	<i>do per Shrews-</i>
<i>Letter from President Verelst.....</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>do bury</i>

3. The *Bute* Captain Patrick Maitland, consigned to Fort St. George and China, had the misfortune in her passage to the Downes to ground on a sand called the Spaniard where she remained several days, but has been happily got off, and received but little damage; yet as she was obliged to be considerably lightened and must be docked, it will retard her departure, but not so much as that we hope she will be able to save her passage to China the season of her arrival in India.

4. We have very maturely deliberated on the most proper measures for the improvement of the culture and extension of the raw silk investment at your Presidency, and have taken the opinion of most of the considerable traders and manufacturers in that article. It appears that the staple of the Bengal silk is in quality equal to and would answer all the purposes of the Italian or Spanish sorts if reeled in the same manner so as to render it easier to wind and to work with less waste, and that with such advantages it would sell at a much higher price than at present, particularly the first letter of the Commercolly silk,<sup>1</sup> of which twenty or thirty bales are more than in its present state can be manufactured in a year; but if it would wind and rid as fast as the Piedmont and Italian sorts, 500 bales would not be too much for this market and fetch from twenty-five to thirty per cent more than it sells for at present, and the lower letters proportionally; even those of D and E might be so perfectly manufactured for answering the uses of the Spanish and Calabria silk as to increase twenty per cent on the present price and no quantity be too large for sale here.

5. And having received full assurances that the instructions and assistance of some able and experienced artists on the spot [would be available] in raising and improving the produce of the worms, and in spinning and drawing the silk from the cocoons in the perfect manner in which the same is done in Italy and other parts of Europe, and by such means the present imperfec-

tions which depreciate and lessen the sale of the Bengal silk can only be removed, and the improvement in quality and very large extension of the sale thereof effected, greatly to the benefit of the public in general and the Company's particular advantage, and having received very satisfactory testimonials of the qualifications of Messrs. James Wiss, Pickering Robinson and William Aubert as persons in all respects able to rectify the disadvantages and bring the investment of this most important article to perfection, we have entertained them as Superintendants for that purpose on the following terms, *vizt.* to be each allowed a salary of £400 per annum for five years certain (in case they shall so long live and continue in the Company's employ) to commence from their arrival in India in consideration of their devoting their whole time and attention to the service of the Company in the improvement of the raw silk investment and obliging themselves not to engage during their continuance in the Company's service in any trade in the East Indies on their own private account. They are to be each allowed £20 per calendar month from the time of their arrival in Bengal for subsistence and [*sic*] instead of diet money, also to be at all times provided with convenient and suitable apartments. We have also agreed to allow each of them £100 for their passage out, and that the charges of their return to England after the expiration of the said five years and all their reasonable expences in proceeding from place to place in India are to be defrayed by the Company.

6. Mr. James Wiss has engaged the four persons undermentioned as drawers or spinners of raw silk on the following terms—

James Ruggiero.....Entertained 24th November last.  
 Dominicus Poggis..... do  
 Charles Francis Bricola..... do  
 Augustin Della Casa..... 10th December.

7. That each of the said four persons are to be allowed £40 sterling per annum from the day of their being entertained, exclusive of their travelling charges; also to be paid the expence of their passage from India at the end of five years, should they not choose to remain any longer in India, and also their house rent is to be paid by the Company.

8. You are to deduct from the wages of each twenty Genoese *livres* or fifteen shillings sterling monthly for the maintenance of their families which we are to remit to Genoa for that purpose.

9. Several tools and materials have been provided here for the use of the filatures under the direction of the Superintendants upon the Company's account, for the particulars whereof you are referred to the invoice of the ships by which the same will be sent.

10. You are also to deduct out of Mr. Wiss's salary forty pounds a year for the maintenance of his wife and family, which is to be paid here.

11. Enclosed you will receive copy of the agreement entered into with Messrs. Wiss, Robinson and Aubert for your fuller information and observance.

12. Mr. Wiss with the four Italians whom he has procured as mentioned in the preceeding part of this letter, take[s] passage on the *Verelst*; and we have strongly recommended it to Captain Compton not only to behave in a polite and friendly manner to Mr. Wiss, but to treat the Italians in such manner

as to make their situation as comfortable as possible ; and we direct that you enquire of Mr. Wiss in what manner the Captain has treated them, as we are determined severely to resent any ill usage they shall meet with. And we recommend to you the same conduct towards these foreigners that they may meet with all due encouragement.

13. Upon the representation of Mr. Francis Peacock that he was the first person who visited the Morung country and made several discoveries there which may prove of great benefit to our service and trade in Bengal, we have permitted him to proceed to your Presidency. And, if it shall appear that the extension of trade into that country can be carried on to the Company's advantage, you may employ Mr. Peacock therein with such allowances and encouragement as you shall think the nature of his services may entitle him to ; but if it shall not appear to you to be for our interest to prosecute this trade, he is then permitted to remain in India for three years to take care of his private concerns, with leave to go into the Morung country to collect his debts now outstanding there.

14. We have also permitted Mr. James Christie to proceed to Bengal to be employed in addition to Mr. Francis Peacock, in case you shall think proper to extend the trade into the Morung country. Otherwise he is to continue in India for three years upon the same terms as Mr. Peacock.

15. The several persons who have had our licence to proceed to the East Indies this season to practise as surgeons have entered into an agreement to serve as surgeons' assistants as the President and Council of the settlement whereto they proceed shall think proper to require. Copy of the agreement is enclosed for your information.

We are,  
Your loving friends,

G. Colebrooke / Fredk. Pigou / J. Man-  
ship / John Harrison / Hy. Crabb  
Boulton / Daniel Wier / George Cum-  
ing / Robt. Gregory / Henry Fletcher /  
W. G. Freeman / George Dempster /  
John Roberts / Chas. Boddam / John  
Woodhouse / Wm. James / J. Purling /  
John Motteux / Peter Du Cane Junr. /  
Ben. Booth.

London,  
31st January 1770.  
(Received per *Verelst*,  
the 3d July 1770.)



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1770

*Shipping news: restoration to service of certain ship-masters guilty of illicit trade—supply of indents from England: complaints about the negligent mode of drawing indents—censure on loss of cannon while being tested—investment: goods in demand in the English market; instructions relating to Italian silk artisans; appointment of Guinand to supervise and improve the sorting of piecegoods; regulations for checking private trade in silk and for protecting paikars and chassars; instructions to maintain amity with the Dutch and the French without slackening efforts to supplant them in commerce—trade in salt, betel-nut and tobacco: order against grant of exclusive privileges—extradition of persons coming to India without license—buildings: progress in the construction of a new fort and a dock at Fort William; inadequate control and supervision of contracts; irregularities in erecting cantonments at Berhampore—Service matters: procedural irregularities of the President and Council in the case of Bolts; reversion to the practice of attaching only one major to each brigade; strictures on the handling of contracts relating to supply of bullocks to the army—observations on revenue accounts: members of Council censured for making unauthorised payments in respect of the commission on Diwani revenues and ordered to reimburse the amount—authenticated papers relating to Bolts's case called—instructions relating to the reconstitution of the Council, the Select Committee and other committees at Fort William—revised orders relating to commission on revenue; appointment of Barker as Commander in Chief in place of Smith—vacancies in the Council to be filled by the established rule of seniority.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We have already wrote to you this season under date of the 30th June, 15th September, 10th November, 7th December, 17th and 31st January last.

2. We shall send this in duplicate by the ships under dispatch and will contain our sentiments and directions at large with respect to the general affairs at your Presidency.

3. Having appointed Commissioners as already advised for the better regulating many very essential branches of our concerns in the East Indies, we shall not in the course of these advices give our orders in so positive a manner as we otherwise should on several points, lest they might clash with those which the Commissioners may think proper to issue.

4. We shall now arrange our orders and remarks under the usual established heads, and

*First, of shipping*

5. Captains Richard Lewin, Edward Lord Chick, John Webb and Thomas Howe, late Commanders of the ships *Vansittart*, *Anson*, *London* and *Nottingham*, having expressed their deepest concern at incurring our displeasure in

23 MARCH 1770

11

carrying out illicit trade, we have, notwithstanding what is said respecting them in our letter of the 11th November 1768, been induced to restore them to the Company's service in hopes that the disadvantage they have sustained during the time of their dismissal as well as sentiments of gratitude for their restoration will be sufficient to restrain them from such misconduct in future.

6. Your giving a gratuity to the master of a sloop who had at great risk of his vessel saved the lives of several recruits that were in a boat which was overset meets with our approbation, not only for the humanity of the action, but as an encouragement for others to exert themselves on similar occasions.

7. In settling accounts with the owners of the *Norfolk* upon which ship you sent ten military as charterparty passengers, it did not appear, either by your letters or Consultations, whether you paid for the passage or not. We therefore direct that in future you mention in the Consultations and General Letters whether or not the commanders are paid for the passengers which are ordered on their ships, also the sums that are paid.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part  
of India to another*

8. In consequence of your earnest recommendation by the *Valentine*<sup>1</sup> that your future indent for steel might be complied with, we sent twenty-five tons on the *Lapwing* snow in part of the expected demand, but when your indents were received we were greatly surprized to find only five tons were desired. This proceeding we esteem a confirmation of the little attention you pay to the drawing out the indents.

9. Another instance is in your desiring in the 36th paragraph of the General Letter of the 2d February 1769 twenty brass six-pounder field pieces, twenty twelve-pounders, twenty eighteen-pounders, and ten twenty-four-pounders; and in the indent dated the following day the quantity desired of those articles appeared to be twenty six-pounders, six twelve-pounders, six eighteen-pounders, and eight twenty-four pounders; nor was this difference cleared up till an additional indent was sent for that purpose dated the 2d of the following month.

10. You have likewise indented for no less than five thousand shells of twelve inches three-quarters when it does not appear you have a single mortar of that size in store, and we cannot suppose they are intended for thirteen inch mortars, as the same indent brings a demand for five thousand shells of that size.

11. The founders have been and still continue very fully employed in making brass pieces for your's and the other Presidencies, and when they have compleated their present orders we shall then consider what further number is necessary to be sent of the indents received this year. The several ships of this season carry about fourteen pieces of brass ordnance of different natures, for the particulars of which you are referred to the several invoices.

12. We have upon your repeated solicitations for the three last years sent a quantity of shoes and hats; but this year we have not sent any, nor

only on account of their not being indented for, but as it appeared all those already sent remained in the import warehouse, the 30th January 1769.

13. We are unable to express our concern at the repeated loss of cannon at your Presidency, occasioned by want of knowledge in proving them. Whatever excuses might be urged in your favor in former instances relative to accidents of this nature, we must declare that the loss  
 Paras. 34, 35. of eleven six-pounders, five twelve-pounders, and five eighteen-pounders, in all twenty-one pieces of brass cannon, mentioned in your General Letter 2d February 1769, was, as far as appears to us, wholly owing to unpardonable negligence and want of attention to a matter of so great consequence.

14. By our advices in 1766 you were informed of the quantity of powder which is the King's proof charge for light brass field pieces, and that we were fully convinced that so many pieces being condemned  
 Lre. to 21st Novr. Pa. 49. was owing to the established quantity of powder being exceeded. After the receipt of those advices, will it be credited that by Consultation 27th December 1768 it appears that twenty-one brass cannon were burst by being tried with *double* the specified quantity of powder established for proof. And further, will it be believed that our servants could have read our said letter of 21st November 1766 which expressly says "that six pounds of powder is proper proof for a twelve-pounder, and three pounds of powder for a six-pounder", and afterwards that they could have entered on their Consultation that double the quantity had been used, and twenty-one guns thereby burst to pieces, and yet write to the Commander in Chief, desiring his opinion, whether the bursting of the guns might *be attributed to the badness of the metal, or to their being tried with an improper quantity of powder?* We are utterly at  
 Cons. 27 Decr. 1768. a loss how to account for such extraordinary conduct. The

person who signs the report of ordnance proved stiles himself Acting Commissary of Stores. But surely the Acting Commissary, if it was his duty at all to prove the guns, ought not to have proceeded to such proof without proper instructions formed from or, previous knowledge had of our above recited advices, so long since by us transmitted. If he was ignorant of the nature of that particular branch of the service, why was it committed to his care? But as it cannot be conceived (though he might not be properly qualified) that he was utterly unacquainted with the *importance* thereof, and as we cannot suppose he would wantonly destroy the property of the Company, we therefore must attribute the whole miscarriage to those whose duty it was to have proved the guns, or who have failed to instruct the officer who did prove them in the quantity of powder necessary for such proof. You tell us other officers shall be employed in such services in future; but as it was equally  
 (a) Mr. Claud Russell the duty of the present<sup>a</sup> Superintendant or his Deputy<sup>b</sup> to  
 (b) Mr. Charles Floyers have prevented, as far as might be, the loss of those guns which have been destroyed by taking care the proper quantity of powder only should be used, and which has not been done, they are justly answerable to the Company not only for the value of the said guns but the consequences which may happen to our service, should it in any wise suffer by the want of them, which is far from being improbable, for we observe in the next paragraph of your letter you inform us that you have only 34 pieces

in garrison, and that all the brigades are in want of field artillery, therefore you desire seventy pieces may be sent you.

15. The elucidation of this matter by Mr. Floyer, though satisfactory to you, affords us no satisfaction whatever. On the contrary it confirms us in our opinion that the grossest inattention has been more general in all those whose duty it was to have been better acquainted with our orders than we could have ventured to suppose could have been the case. Mr. Floyer says, "The orders contained in the General Letter relative to the future method of proving cannon were issued to him as Military Storekeeper on the *11th June 1767*; and on the 9th July he delivered over the charge of that employ to Mr. Russell."

16. It appears on your Consultations that the paragraph referred to was not *ordered* to be copied for the Military Storekeeper till *June 13th*, so that it seems very extraordinary and improbable that it could have been issued to him the *11th of June*.

17. Mr. Floyer, who officiated for Mr. Russell, asked Mr. Bennet if he had not received the said orders from Mr. Volham, who was dead but had preceded Mr. Bennet in that station. Mr. Bennet answers *that none had been delivered to him*, and being totally ignorant of any new form prescribed, he had pursued that which had ever been practised by Major Winwood and Mr. Volham.

18. The above question was trifling. It is absolutely the duty of the Superintendant to take care that Mr. Bennet was actually acquainted with the orders of the Court of Directors, and not by negligence on his part to leave the Acting Commissary *entirely ignorant of any such orders being received*, which are his own express words. Nevertheless, we also declare that if copy of the Court's orders is an office paper with the Military Storekeeper, Mr. Bennet also merits severe marks of our displeasure for acting in that office and remaining totally ignorant of such order. In vain do we take all methods in our power to obtain proper information and frequently at great expence, when our servants do not pay so much regard to our orders given in consequence thereof as even to become with any exactness acquainted with the bare contents of such our orders.

19. We have therefore given it in charge to our Commissioners to enquire into the cause of such want of attention as has produced effects so much to our disadvantage; and to them we shall leave it to censure, suspend, dismiss, degrade, or otherwise punish those who have so much failed in their duty, and also to obtain such satisfaction to the Company as the nature of the case may justly require.

### *Thirdly, of investment<sup>2</sup>*

20. Enclosed you will receive list of goods to be provided for the ships consigned to your Presidency this season, containing also our remarks and observations upon the investment received last season, to which we require as strict an obedience as if inserted in the body of this letter.

21. The large investment we have received from your Presidency this season convinces us of your attention to our interest, and we shall depend



upon your exerting yourselves as much as possible to prevent the French and Dutch from carrying on theirs consistently with the amity subsisting with those states, and as the French Company is not re-established we hope it will enable you to encrease it still more.

22. As the matter of investment is of the greatest importance to our interest, because on that alone depends our prosperity and existence, we have bestowed very great attention to the goods which answer best at this market. You will find our observations at large in the list of investment, and we particularly recommend to you to encourage the growth of that silk, and the manufacture of those goods which appear on the list of investment to be most in demand at this market.

23. The method you took of purchasing such ready money goods<sup>3</sup> in Calcutta as were procurable at a reasonable rate in order to compleat the tonnage for the several ships you had on hand was very commendable and meets with our entire approbation.

Lre from 2d Feb.  
1769 pa. 47.

24. The saltpetre imported by several ships lately, though invoiced at the same price, has been of different qualities, which not being discovered till it was weighed off to the buyers, we have been obliged to make them an allowance upon the brown sort. In order to avoid the like inconveniences in future you must distinguish each sortment in the invoice and bill of lading, and also take care that the quality of that you send is the best.

25. Mr. Wiss, one of the persons whom according to our letter of the 31st January last we have engaged for the improvement of your raw silk investment and is himself a very capable manufacturer, is to be stationed at Commercolly or the principal silk *aurung* as shall appear most conducive to our interest, and the four Italians who are absolutely engaged to serve under Mr. Wiss must accompany him for that purpose.

26. Mr. Robinson, also entertained in the same branch, is to reside at Rungpoor or wherever else you shall deem his services therein may best be exerted; but as he has not himself been able to procure any reelers, and if he shall be disappointed of one or two hands expected soon from Italy, care must be taken to provide him with some of the best workmen that can be picked up in the country to be instructed by him, until we can send to his assistance, by the first ship of next season, some Italians, whom we have given directions to be engaged to serve in the filature to be by him established; and in the mean time you are to direct that when Mr. Wiss shall have qualified some of the natives as reelers according to his method, that he do supply a sufficient number of them to be sent to and employed under Mr. Robinson; in a word we expect and require that you furnish him with the best assistance the country is capable of affording, and that Messrs. Wiss and Aubert can spare, for his proceeding in this business, until he receives the Italians proposed to be sent as abovementioned.

27. Mr. William Aubert, whom you have been also acquainted proceeds for the like purposes, and on the same footing as Messrs. Wiss and Robinson, is to be stationed at another principal silk *aurung* with the three foreign assistants he brings with him, and who shall not, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, be appointed to serve under Mr. Robinson, to whom also it is



specially directed that he do spare some of the natives, as soon as they shall be qualified in the proper manner of reeling, in the same manner as Mr. Wiss is before directed to do, that Mr. Robinson may be the better enabled to conduct his filature, until he obtains the Italian assistants proposed to be sent for him next season.

28. No time is to be lost in sending the above three persons severally after their arrival without one waiting for another, to the places of their destination, in order that they may make the necessary dispositions and prepare the proper buildings and apparatus for entering upon their respective filatures as early in the season as possible.

29. They are each to reside at different places in order to encourage a spirit of emulation; and as it is extremely material to this valuable article of our trade that the method of spinning or drawing the silk as practised at Novi and proposed to be established by these artists should be entirely adopted throughout the whole country, they must, so soon as the natives are sufficiently instructed to work under a proper overseer at any *aurung*, proceed to different and distant ones to conduct other filatures until that method shall be compleatly and universally established.

30. Messrs. Wiss, Robinson and Aubert are so sufficiently masters of the business they have undertaken for the improvement and extention of the silk manufacture that we do not see it necessary at present to give any further instructions on the subject than to recommend that they be in general directed to wind the silk in the same manner as is done in Novi as clean as possible, and the threads to be drawn off not less than eight, or more than eighteen cocoons, marking on the outside of each bale, and on a ticket to be enclosed therein, the number of cocoons and the name of the Superintendant under whose direction it is wound; and we especially insist on a punctual observation of this rule.

31. At the instance of Mr. Robinson we have agreed to pay here £40 per annum for his father's use. You are therefore to deduct that sum annually out of the stipend to be allowed him for his services as mentioned in our letter dated the 31st January last.

32. Anthony Broche, Anthony Burguier and John Peter Aigoïn who proceed on the *Morse* are engaged as reelers of silk from Nismes in Languedoc to serve under Mr. William Aubert at the salary of £40 sterling a year each to commence from the 1st February last, and are to be paid the amount of their travelling charges from Nismes to Bengal (which has been done here) and back to Nismes at the end of five years from their arrival in Bengal, if they should not chuse to remain any longer in India; they are also to be paid house rent and charges of travelling from place to place in India; and £15 a year is to be deducted from the allowances of Anthony Broche and Anthony Burguier to be paid here for the use of their families. Copy of the contract they have entered into is enclosed in the said ship's packet, and you must not omit by every opportunity to acquaint us whether these people and those who accompanied Mr. Wiss are living and remain in our service.

33. We have also entertained James Demarin, an ingenious and skilfull mechanic, at the salary of £50 a year to commence from the 1st inst. In every other respect he is to be upon the footing of the three beforementioned

workmen, and to be employed under Mr. Aubert subject to your orders in constructing engines to be used in the filatures.

34. We have purchased of Mr. Aubert two models of machines to be used in the winding of silk which are invoiced by the *Morse*. He is to have the benefit of their use until he shall have given specimens of his abilities as an artist in the manufacture of the silk to be sent here which shall be wound under his direction, and afterwards those models are to be communicated to Messrs. Wiss and Robinson that they may provide themselves with the like if they shall be found advantageous; and they are constantly to remain in your custody at the Presidency, where the said James Demarin is to be employed in making the necessary apparatus for the silk works, which when compleated he is then to serve wherever you shall think proper.

35. Notwithstanding we have repeatedly complained of great defects in the providing and assorting your investment of piece goods, yet as those complaints still subsist whereby our sales here are greatly prejudiced, we have thought it expedient in order to prevent them in future to appoint Mr. Henry Guinand, who is perfectly acquainted with the sortments proper for the European markets, to be Superintendant of Piece Goods under your Presidency at the salary of four hundred pounds a year to commence upon his arrival, also twenty pounds per calendar month for subsistence instead of diet money, and he is to have all his travelling charges defrayed in going from one place to another in India. We have paid the expence of his passage out, and he is also to be allowed the expence of his voyage home, as stipulated in his agreement with the Company, of which we send a copy. And it is our positive order that he be neither permitted to trade for himself, or to procure goods of any kind, either directly or indirectly, for any other persons whatever, and we shall severely resent the least disobedience of this order.

36. The principal defects which are pointed out and which Mr. Guinand has undertaken to rectify are the great mixture of sorts in the same bale; the want of variety and novelty in all flowered, striped and checked muslins, also in all coloured prohibited goods; the neglect of providing sundry species of muslins and other goods imported by foreign companies with great profit; the small investment of superfine muslins much in demand for foreign and home trade; and the inferior quality of sundry sorts of muslins annually degenerating so much as not to answer their denomination. You must therefore further our views in this important branch of our commerce by employing Mr. Guinand in such manner as to answer the ends of his appointment either by his overlooking and sorting the bales as they are received into the export warehouse at Calcutta or by his taking the circuit of the *aurungs* and instructing the persons there in what manner the goods should be manufactured and sorted for their exportation to Europe.

37. As it does not appear that Mr. De la Porte has answered our expectations in sending him out, we direct that upon the receipt of this letter his salary do cease, and he is hereby permitted to reside in India as a free merchant so long as he behaves to your satisfaction.

38. We have observed in our investment this year the great inattention of the sorters at many places in suffering goods to be packed of different qualities and species in the same bale, as also others rotten or damaged in the

middle of the piece. This is so great neglect of their duty that we order the native in whose immediate department the goods have been found faulty be directly dismissed our service, and also that the Chief Warehouse Keeper of that department be reprimanded, as by this inattention it has already been a great charge to us by the buyers examining every piece in many bales and returning those which they find to be damaged. And if this is not remedied in future, it will give such discredit to the goods that the buyers will open all the bales to examine every piece, which will amount to an immense sum in labor, to prevent which in future we direct that every piece be examined over a roller before it is packed. The species of goods and places they have been received from are as follows, *vizt.*

*Goods damaged and in holes\**

<i>Baftaes</i>	...	...	...	...	Islamabad <sup>4</sup>
<i>Emmerties</i>	...	...	...	...	Patna
<i>Laccowries</i>	...	...	...	...	
<i>Mammoodies</i>	...	...	...	...	
<i>Gurrahs</i>	...	...	...	...	Soonamokie <i>Aurung</i>

*Goods mixt*

<i>Cossaes</i>	...	...	...	...	Maulda <i>Aurung</i>
<i>Mulmuls</i>	...	...	...	...	Keerpoy <i>Aurung</i> Santipore
<i>Seerbettees</i>	...	...	...	...	Dacca

39. We have taken into consideration the case of Mr. Barwell, late Resident at Beauleah<sup>5</sup>; and although we concur with you in opinion that Mr. Barwell has been evasive in his answers to the queries of the Board of Cossimbuzar, which it was his duty to have answered plainly and fully, and we disapprove his making new regulations for conducting the investment without consulting the Chief and Council or immediately acquainting them thereof, yet as we do not find that Mr. Barwell has in any respect acted unfaithfully towards us, we are of opinion he should not have been removed from his Residency at Beauleah, especially as we wish seniority in our service may in all cases find every reasonable encouragement, unless disability or dishonesty in our senior servants should justly preclude their claims and render it absolutely necessary they should be superseded.

40. It appears by the correspondence of Mr. Barwell that it has been the custom in time past for the Company's *pykars* who collect *putney* for the factory at Beauleah to bring thither quantities of ferrit [ferret] and three lettered *putney*, which, not being of the sortment fit for our investments, have been always sent to the members of the Council at Cossimbuzar as private trade though purchased by the Company's cash, advanced to the *pykars* for the purpose of providing our investment. We utterly disapprove this mode of proceeding because when the *pykars* have fallen short of delivering the quantity of *putney* which the large advances made to them gave reason to expect, they have complained that the rejected *putney* as well as the silk having been

\* Trad: symbols against each of the items are given in the ms., but they have been omitted here.—Ed.

purchased with the Company's money, and for which they had no other fund, and perhaps were not paid for such rejected *putney* until a considerable time after the delivery thereof at Cossimbuzar, therefore further advances were absolutely necessary, otherwise our investment must suffer hindrance and diminution.

41. The outstanding balances to *pykars* exceed so greatly our expectations that we cannot but believe due care has not been taken at the close of each *bund* for the amount of all the silk purchased with our money to be brought to account; for although an increase of investment necessarily occasions a larger advance than formerly to be made to the *pykars*, yet it by no means follows that at the close of the *bund* they should be more indebted to us than was usually the case when the investment was less extensive. On the contrary the more silk they contract for the greater must be their profits, and their ability to discharge the whole money advanced to them at the commencement of the *bund* cannot be lessened by an increased trade. In order therefore to prevent as far as may be this evil in time to come, we direct that all the ferrit silk and three lettered *putney* delivered in consequence of the advance made by the Company to the *pykars* be put under the inspection of one or more of the three persons we have sent out this year to superintend the manufacturing of raw silk; and we doubt not but they will be able to wind it off in such a manner as to make it answer the European market, and if that should be the case, due care must be taken that it be packed separately, and invoiced under the head of ferrit silk, and three lettered *putney*, agreeable to the 47th paragraph of our letter of the 11th November 1768. And we further direct that those of the *pykars* who discover proper skill and care in procuring our investment and pay the greatest attention to the reduction of their outstanding balances at the close of each *bund* have ever the preference in your advances for the next season; and that you use your utmost endeavors speedily to recover all outstanding balances from such of the *pykars* who are in arrears to us.

42. And we further direct that at every subordinate factory, district or other place whatever where *putney* may be provided for our investment, accounts be duly kept of the several species of silk produced at such subordinate factory or district, distinguishing particularly what quantity may be fit for our investment as fine silk, and also of ferrit which may be found proper to send hither, and of such refuse silk as must of necessity be rejected, ascertaining thereby, as near as may be, the whole produce of the country, and that such account be regularly entered on your Consultations at the close of every *bund* for our information. It is also our pleasure that you take the greatest care to prevent those who may have the inspection of the *putney* from rejecting any under the name of refuse *putney* which shall not be absolutely unfit to be sent to Europe under the denomination of ferrit silk. And if you should at any time discover that any fraud or collusion whatever be practiced by those who may have the care of this business, whereby ferrit silk may be deemed unfit for the European market when it actually is not so, we direct that you forthwith dismiss from our service every person, of whatever rank or station, who may be found unfaithful in a matter which we deem of great consequence and do therefore so particularly charge you effectually to carry into execution.



43. As our servants at Cossimbuzar and Beauleah have declared "that obstruction to private trade in silk must in the end prove detrimental to the Company's revenue, which deserves at least equal attention with the investments, and that the investment clashes with the collection of revenues", we direct that you do without loss of time explain to us in the fullest manner how our revenues can be affected by restrictions laid on private trade in *putney*, and in what manner providing the investment clashes with the collection of the said revenues. You are also at the same time to specify, as nearly as possible, the quantity, in every district, of ferrit and three lettered *putney* usually rejected by the Company, the whole quantity which is purchased by private traders, the amount of the revenues arising therefrom or by means thereof, and the mode of collection of such revenues, that we may be the better enabled to judge of the propriety of allowing a greater latitude, or of abridging the growing extension of private trade in *putney*, and also to apply proper remedies for removing, as far as may be, every obstruction in collecting the revenues.

44. We cannot think it prudent to permit private traders to wind off three lettered *putney* at pleasure without its passing through the factory, as this custom opens such an inlet to private trade as may, nay, must necessarily, operate to the hinderance of our investment, and be a continual temptation to those concerned to wind off such *putney* as we have prohibited being purchased for any other purpose than for our investments. We therefore direct that such practice be utterly discontinued in future; and we the more strictly enjoin this, because we observe representations have been made by former Residents at Beauleah that private merchants and *gomastahs* have oftentimes interfered in the Company's purchases of silk.

45. You are to take care, at the commencement of every *bund* or oftner, that at all your subordinates or factories, when advances are made to *pykars*, each *pykar* be called before the Chief of the subordinate<sup>6</sup> and Council, or the Resident, and two others at least of our servants, next in authority, if so many reside at such factory where any advances may be issued to the said *pykars*; and that to each of the *pykars* separately a copy be delivered of their outstanding balances if any such there be, with a particular account of the advance last made to them. And they are to be examined whether they have actually received the amount for which they are debited; and care must also be taken that the answers of each *pykar* respectively thereto be entered at large, and transmitted to you, which must also be entered on your Consultations immediately for our information. This mode of proceeding is on no account to be neglected or discontinued, and by which means those frauds and oppressions formerly practised by the sircar paymasters or their banyans in detaining part of the advances in their own hands and obtaining from the *pykars* receipts for the whole will, we hope, be prevented in future.

46. The complaints of the *chassars* against the *pykars* should be very carefully attended to. Every prudent means should be used to restore harmony between those who are so immediately and mutually concerned in the provision of our investment. If the *chassars* are oppressed, relief should be administered; yet in such manner, if possible, as not to lessen the influence of our *pykar* with those persons on whom the investment principally depends. Such of the *pykars* who do not honestly pay the *chassar* but leave a balance due at the close



of the *bund* to those who rear the worms or wind the silk deserve severe reprehension for misusing our advances made to them, and are by no means worthy your confidence in future. You will by diligent enquiry soon inform yourselves if this be the case, and take such measures thereupon as may effectually prevent hindrance being given to our investment by the mismanagement of the Company's *pykars*.

47. It does not appear to us that any considerable obstructions can arise to prevent the increase of the number of *aurungs* for supplying our investment, or such quantity of silk from being provided at those *aurungs* as may fully answer our expectations, and as this is a matter we have much at heart, and are determined to have accomplished so far as may be practicable, we therefore direct that you take care effectually to prevent all private traders and their *gomastahs* from interfering in any respect whatever with our purchases of silk, or at the *aurungs* where our investment is provided. And in order fully to convince as well our servants at subordinates as also all private traders that we shall not on any account permit an evasion of this our order, we further direct that no private trader be permitted to purchase silk of any kind or quality whatever at any *aurung* from whence our investment is supplied; but that all such private traders be compelled to seek other *aurungs*, not in any degree appropriated to our service, and from such *aurungs* only all silk for private trade must be procured. And if any of our servants or any private trader shall be found guilty of transgressing this our positive injunction, it is our express will and pleasure that you immediately dismiss every such servant from our service, and also that you withdraw our protection from every such private trader who shall be found guilty of a breach of this our order.

48. We do not approve that part of your order to subordinates which enjoins implicit obedience to be paid by the Residents at our several factories to the orders of the Chief of a subordinate. It is our pleasure that all orders that require implicit obedience be issued not by the *Chief singly*, but by the *Chief and Council*; and that all orders given, answers received, and all other proceedings whatever relative to our investments, be not communicated by the Chief to the Council, but that the *Chief and Council* do issue such orders, and that all remonstrances and answers thereto be addressed not to the *Chief alone*, but to the *Chief and Council* of such subordinate respectively from whom the orders may have been issued, or in extraordinary cases to the Governor and Council at Calcutta. And we direct that immediately on receipt hereof, you transmit a copy of this our order to every subordinate and factory within your Presidency, that it may be an invariable rule to be observed in future by all our servants at every such subordinate and factory.

49. The papers containing complaints of the Dutch Council at Houghley, transmitted to you by letters no. 89 and 90, relative to interruption given them in their trade, were, you say, referred to the Committee of *Aurungs*,<sup>7</sup> and that Committee was desired to enquire strictly and minutely into those representations in order to "*prevent, if possible, any of the like complaints in future*". We are sorry to be obliged to observe that your omission of the entry of those complaints justly subject you to our censure. We expect every material information to be fully entered in its proper place, whereby we may be enabled to judge of the pro-

Lre. from  
3 Sept. 1768,  
Para. 60.

COLS. 27  
Jan 1769.

priety of complaints, and the application of proper remedies. We can by no means excuse neglects of this nature, and we strictly enjoin that in every matter of consequence, you do take care that all papers relative thereto be regularly entered at large. As those transmitted by the Dutch Council were by you deemed worthy so strict an examination, we must believe they ought to have been communicated to us. And if the disputes are not wholly subsided, we direct that you transmit the whole to us by the first opportunity, together with your own proceedings thereupon, that we may take such steps for maintaining a proper degree of amity as may prevent disagreeable remonstrances from being preferred at home.

50. The proposal of Mr. Chevalier "that the investment of the two Companies be provided at the Calcutta *aurungs* by one purchaser" would have been totally rejected, had the French Company still existed; but the dissolution of that Company has rendered it needless to remark further on the absurdity of such proposal. It is our desire that you take care not to violate the faith of treaties, and that you live on good terms with the French, so far as may be practicable; but it is no less our wish to supplant them, as far as we may safely and prudently do it, in their commerce. We would by no means have them informed of the extent of our investments, could it be avoided, much less can we permit theirs and ours to be provided by the same person and shared in specified proportions.

Cons. 18th  
April.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India, transactions with the country powers and European nations*

51. We have directed our Commissioners to take care that the trade for salt, betelnut and tobacco be laid open, that no exclusive privileges be allowed to the English, that duties or regulations be not evaded under pretence of respect due to the English flag; and we do strictly enjoin you to conform to such regulations, or to any others which our said Commissioners may deem for the good of our service and direct to be observed.

Lre. from  
13th Septr. 1768,  
Pa. 64.

52. We are informed that several persons have of late proceeded to India, by way of Aleppo<sup>8</sup>, who are not licensed by us, particularly in December 1767: Robert Hunter, a clerk to one of the members of the Turkey Company, and Jacob Goverts, a Hamburger (in April 1769) for the Dutch settlements; George Smith also arrived at Bussorah the 30th July last intending to proceed to Bengal, but continued at the former place as clerk to Mr. Garden. We are firmly resolved to put an end to this practice by executing the laws in force for preventing all persons from proceeding to the East Indies without our license, and for immediately sending home all such who have not our permission to continue there; and herewith we transmit you an abstract of those laws which you are hereby authorized and required to carry into speedy and effectual execution, particularly enjoining you to see that the same is done in regard to the abovenamed persons, if they shall be found in India and within the limits of your jurisdiction.

53. It having been also represented to us that such unlicensed persons do by means of the commanders of country ships from the Gulph of Persia obtain a passage into India, as such commanders are thereby guilty of a flagrant

breach of our standing orders, we strictly require you to deprive all such offenders of our protection and send them to England after having given them a reasonable time not exceeding twelve months to settle their private concerns.

54. We gave you an intimation in our letter of the 30th June last, from which you may have formed an expectation that a squadron of men of war, if necessary, would be sent to India for the defence of our possessions against any designs of an European power. It is proper you should be acquainted that in our late intercourse with His Majesty's Ministers, in consequence of the application of the General Court of Proprietors on this subject (as mentioned in our letter of the 15th September last), it does not appear probable that, as peace has been made with Hyder Ally<sup>9</sup>, any such assistance will be afforded this season, notwithstanding we have constantly represented that ships of the line are needful in India to guard our settlements against being surprized by an European enemy.

*Fifthly, of fortifications, buildings and revenues*

55. We are glad to learn by your letter of the 28th March that Colonel Campbell was arrived and had taken upon him the charge of your works, and we have that confidence in his integrity and abilities that we doubt not very soon to hear your fortifications<sup>10</sup> are in great forwardness. The alterations in them and the necessity of piling in a different manner in order to alter the course of the river and thereby prevent its encroachments on the works, we shall leave to Colonel Campbell, subject to the controul of the Governor and Council, or the Commissioners if present, as they must be the best judges by being on the spot. We therefore direct that you be very particular in your consultations upon this subject, as the expence already incurred is almost insupportable.

56. Sensible of the public utility the constructing docks at your Presidency would be to commerce we gave permission last season for building one, and it is with great pleasure we learn by your General Letter of the 28th March that Colonel Campbell and Captain Watson<sup>11</sup> had undertaken to construct proper docks, slips and dock yards for building and careening at all seasons, times, and tides of ships of every kind from the rate of a seventy-four gun ship downwards at their own risk and expence. We entirely approve of the encouragement and assistance you gave to so laudable an undertaking, which you are to continue so as it will not to take off the workmen from or any way interfere with carrying on your fortifications; and we shall as readily comply with the requests their agents here may make to send any articles that may be wanted for this purpose.

57. We observe by your letter per *Salisbury* that you intend carrying on all public works by contract under proper inspection and prudent regulations. This we believe may be the most advantageous mode of proceeding. But it is with concern we find that contracts have been more than once violated, and the forfeited penalties remitted. As this practice must naturally tend to destroy the good effects of proceeding by contract, we have been induced to examine strictly into the causes of such absolution from terms entered into, and remission of the

11th Novr. 1768,  
Pa. 126.

2nd. Febr. 1769,  
pa. 65.

penalties incurred by contractors ; and as things at present appear to us, we must declare ourselves much dissatisfied with your conduct relative thereto.

58. In your General Letter per *Valentine* you say, "The persons who contracted to supply your new works with bricks for last year failed in the performance of their contract. But upon a representation of circumstances that were the occasion of it, which were principally accidents that could not be foreseen or avoided, and this representation being confirmed by the opinion of Mr. Russel, one of the members of the Committee of Works, we agreed to remit *conditionally* the penalty they had incurred." And in your General Letter per *Salisbury* you inform us you consented to repeal a former order passed the 7th of November and to absolve the contractors *entirely* from the penalty they had incurred.

13 Sepr. 1768,  
Pa. 85.

2nd Febr. 1769,  
Pa. 64.

59. On the 4th February 1767 your Committee of Works informed you they had concluded a very advantageous contract for bricks. The contractors were to deliver 60 lacks the first season. They fell short of the stipulated number upwards of twelve lacks. The reason assigned by the contractors for such deficiency was, because *regular inspectors* were not appointed sooner than May 1767, and those who before that time had the management of that service rejected nearly the same quantity of good bricks which the contractors fell short (who thereby failed of compleating their contract) and permitted them to sell them to private people ; so that the ends and purposes of entering into contract were entirely defeated thereby. It was certainly your duty to have provided proper inspectors at the beginning of the season. Those persons who could be prevailed upon to abuse their trust and reject good bricks to answer private purposes were capable of approving bad bricks if they had found the same reasons for so doing, and were therefore unfit at any rate to superintend the works. And you ought not to have remained so long ignorant of the state of the case as to render abortive the contractors' endeavors to fulfil their agreement. The contractors should have complained to you sooner, and not have sold ten or twelve lacks of good bricks to private persons first, and then request your advice, when it was too late to profit thereby. And therefore we cannot suppose you acted discreetly or warrantably when you remitted the penalty so far as it related to the first season.

60. In the second season, as the deficiency of the contractors appears to have been wholly owing to unforeseen and unavoidable causes, we approve your conduct in absolving the contractors from that part of the contract which respects the second season only.

61. We have carefully attended to the conduct of those of our servants with whose negligence or dishonesty at Burrampore<sup>12</sup> we have reason to be dissatisfied. And we are of opinion that as it was the indispensable duty of the Chief at Cossimbuzar, so it was also in a great measure in his power, either to have prevented the commission, or long continuance at least of almost all those frauds which have taken place, and thereby that enormous excess of expence which has been incurred at Burrampore would have been avoided. Mr. Sykes, who had the inspection of the accounts monthly, might without difficulty have detected almost every imposition, had he paid proper attention to that part of his duty which related to inspecting the sa'c accounts ; because, by an immediate reference to the then current price all overcharges in



materials might have been immediately ascertained, which could not with the greatest application, be precisely or satisfactorily done twelve months afterwards. And as to his plea of other business having engrossed his time, it is by no means such an excuse which we can admit in his justification. He ought to have made an early representation of that circumstance to you, and indeed you should have originally appointed a person well qualified for such an undertaking, to superintend the works and prevent impositions, knowing as you did that Mr. Sykes's avocations in our service did not afford him sufficient leisure for inspecting so closely as might have been done.

62. Although we much approve your conduct from the time the enquiry has commenced to that of its being compleated, yet we can by no means persuade ourselves that it was altogether blameless in you to suffer so long the abuses to be continued before effectual enquiry was made concerning them. We say effectual enquiry because we observe Mr. Forbes alleges in his defence that his monthly accounts had been examined and received the entire sanction of the Chief at Cossimbuzar, been approved by the Council of that place and by the Committee of Accounts at your Presidency, and that no deficiencies appeared till near twelve months after such approvals; and Mr. Palk, we find, also makes established custom the only plea for his overcharges.

Cons. 4th Octr.  
1768.

63. As we cannot suppose those persons whose duty it was to inspect the accounts to have been unqualified for such trust in point of knowledge without impeaching the conduct of our Governor and Council who appointed them to that office, so on the other hand, supposing them sufficiently intelligent and capable of filling the station in a proper manner, we cannot but deem them to have been guilty of notorious negligence or great unfaithfulness when they audited and approved accounts so very fraudulent as those of Mr. Forbes appear to have been.

64. We are aware that a man who could so far deviate from duty as Mr. Forbes has done may be supposed capable of writing in the style he wrote to you, even admitting there was no foundation in fact for many of his very extraordinary assertions. Nevertheless, we cannot but wish that you had plainly and fully replied to that part of his defence where he affirms, "That he is thoroughly convinced his transactions will bear the test of any comparison you may choose to make with the accounts of any gentleman who holds an office of this nature under the Company, and desires the reasonableness of his charges may be determined by some such standard."

65. Whatever audacity there may appear on the part of Mr. Forbes in the above declaration and request, yet we confess it our opinion that such charge as is implied therein ought to have been openly and fully refuted, and not barely contradicted, which is all that has been done by you. You seem to make Mr. Forbes's reflections on the service in general part of your reason for the sentence which you pass upon him; but, we repeat it, we believe you ought rather, to us at least, to have proved that Mr. Forbes's plea of *established custom* for any part of the undue advantages made by him was groundless. We are the more particular herein as we think it was a proper opportunity for you to shew that all that zeal for the good of our service which you profess has indeed been by you exercised.

Cons. 7th Novr.  
1768.



66. But however alarming it may be to find that the *Buxies*, who were persons, some of them, of long standing in our service, have abused their trust, and that the overcharges of those whose proper province it was to have guarded our property at Burrumpore from the designs of any who might attempt to defraud us have amounted to no less sum than two lacks of rupees, yet we observe that those overcharges are a very trivial loss in comparison of the whole sustained by means of the indiscretions exercised relative to the cantonments at Burrampore.

67. When Lord Clive and Council came to a resolution to have the cantonments erected, and ordered the Chief at Cossimbuzar to supply the materials, make the necessary advances, pay the people employed, and transmit the accounts monthly, it was expressly ordered that the whole expence *should not exceed two lacks and one half* [ $2\frac{1}{2}$  lacks] *of rupees or three lacks at the most*. In consequence of that order, the building was undertaken and carried on till *twelve lacks* were expended; it was then judged needful to alter and enlarge the plan, by which alteration great part of the works already in forwardness became almost wholly useless, to the amount at least, as the Engineer says, of three compleat lacks, besides the additional expence occasioned by the alterations; and the completion of the whole, it was then computed, would, over and above the twelve lacks expended, amount to seventeen lacks more. Those seventeen lacks we find however reduced to about 10 lacks in the new calculation made by Captain Watson, and therefore it appears we may now expect the whole to be compleated for about twenty-two lacks of rupees.

68. It is very observable that in the first design of the cantonments at Burrampore it was intended to accomodate the sepoys as well as the European troops; but proceedings having been carried on in order thereto for a year or more, you then determined not to have any barracks for sepoys. By that resolution, the rafters which had been framed for those works, the foundations which were compleatly sunk and some of which were finished with brick work to the level of the ground, were also rendered useless. It seems very strange to us, but it is nevertheless true that no calculated estimate of any of the works appears to have been made by any person whatever till those by Lieutenant Mestayer in 1768, and by Captain Watson, who was sent to enquire into the state of the cantonments after so immense an expence had been incurred and to so little purpose.

69. Notwithstanding there might not be the same necessity for seapoys to be accomodated in order to attach them to our interest as well as the Europeans, it will scarcely be credited that our servants should drop that part of the intended work, and yet venture to increase the given expences to the immoderate degree they have done, thus sporting with the property of the Company to the additional amount of near twenty lacks of rupees as has been the case, and yet leave out so very considerable a part of the whole, as the accomodation of the sepoys must have been, had that plan been persevered in.

70. We observe with astonishment that on the first outset of the building no less than fifteen sets of unnecessary subalterns' apartments were laid out and carried on till Captain Watson reported them in that light to the Council at Cossimbuzar. They were then by him desired to be discontinued; but on account of an increase of the military establishment, you have judged

those apartments necessary, and ordered that they should be completed. However this may now be justifiable in you, still it leaves those persons wholly inexcusable who permitted such superfluous apartments at first to be begun when there was not the least probability of their being wanted. Had the expence incurred by building those supernumerary officers' apartments been frugally applied towards providing comfortable shelter for the poor sepoys, less apology would have been necessary for venturing to exceed the sum so expressly fixed by Lord Clive and Council, not to be on any account exceeded in erecting the cantonments at Burrumpore. We hope your future watchfulness and frugality in finishing the said works will compensate, as far as may be, for that remisness (for such we must term it) which has suffered past enormities to grow to such incredible extent and remain so long undetected.

71. We are dissatisfied with the conduct of Colonel Martin,<sup>13</sup> whose report, being untrue, did certainly, in the first instance, mislead the Council at Cossimbuzar; and we believe your sentiments, communicated to Colonel Martin, on his behaviour in that transaction to be just; and that had he not resigned his commission it would undoubtedly have been your duty to have dismissed him our service.

72. In regard to Mr. George Williamson, his unfaithfulness admits not the least excuse, and the abuses by him practised in his contract for timbers render him utterly unworthy to be any longer entertained in our service, from which we hereby direct that he be dismissed. We approve your having taken security for the deficient timbers; and also direct that he be not permitted to leave India until he shall have fully paid whatever may be due from him to the Company, or given to you such further security for the same as shall be to your entire satisfaction.

73. The overcharges of Mr. Forbes at Burrampore and his extortions and oppressions at Beauleah have been so very extraordinary that we much approve your having dismissed him our service. His carriage during the enquiry made into his conduct, and his burning his papers previous thereto, evidenced such signs of guilt as could not fail placing him in the most disadvantageous light. The issue has proved him deserving every mark of our displeasure. We direct, therefore, that the suit instituted against Mr. Forbes in the Mayor's Court at Calcutta be vigorously prosecuted, and that no relaxation or abatement whatever be made of all such sums of money and costs of suit as may be decreed by the said Court to be due from Mr. Forbes, either to the Company or to the *pykars*, in consequence of his overcharges and abuses at Burrumpore, or his undue exactions and great oppression of the said *pykars* at Beauleah. And as you inform us you have taken ample security that Mr. Forbes do not leave India until the suit be decided, or that he will, should he depart from India before that time, leave sufficient value to answer our just demands, in case he may be cast, we direct that on no account whatever you suffer the said security to be discharged until our aforesaid orders relative to Mr. Forbes shall have been fully carried into execution, and all the money which may be legally obtained by such prosecution be actually paid by Mr. Forbes or his said securities.

74. Lieutenant Mestayer has been so grossly deficient in superintending the works at Burrumpore, and so unfaithful in his report relative to the timbers

bought of Mr. Williamson, that for those instances of his misconduct we should deem him worthy of dismissal. But as we observe also that his obstinacy in having refused to give information on oath of such frauds as might be within his knowledge was a further aggravation of such his misconduct, we can on no account permit his stay in our service. We therefore direct that he be dismissed, and that his bond given for the amount of the share he had in the *dustores* be paid, or proper security taken for payment thereof before he be permitted to leave India.

75. On your Consultations of the 23rd February 1769 we observe proposals from several persons for supplying your Committee of Works with such timbers and planks as might be requisite for your fortifications, and we must here express our approbation of your conduct in taking time to obtain the fullest information in a matter of so much importance. But sensible as we are that it would be in vain for us to offer any opinion on a point which must have been long since determined, (even had we sufficient lights to direct our judgement), yet we cannot help expressing our astonishment at the great difference which appears in the amount of the several proposals tendered to your Committee, some of which are near double, one almost trebles, the terms of the lowest offer.

76. As no reasons appear to us for this extraordinary difference we can only judge of it from the face of the several proposals, and we therefore see with concern to what attacks the Company's property is exposed from the insatiable thirst of gain which some would not scruple to gratify. Our security however rests on your judgement and integrity, which we hope and trust to find answerable to the confidence we repose in your administration of our affairs.

77. Shell Pattison having been employed several years as carpenter at your Presidency and came home for the recovery of his health, which being re-established, returns to his duty, having given security to prevent his becoming chargeable in the East Indies.

78. Mr. John Worship who was instructed in the art of manufacturing gunpowder by the late Mr. Watson has been represented to us as well qualified to succeed him as Superintendant of your Powder Works. We therefore recommend that he be employed by the Committee of Works in that branch and that you encourage him in such manner as he shall be found to deserve.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military servants and their accounts*

79. Our President Mr. Verelst having acquainted us that his ill state of health would prevent his staying longer in India than next season, and Mr. Cartier, whom we nominated to succeed him in the Government, having requested we would appoint him a successor, we therefore hereby order and direct that Richard Becher Esqr. do succeed to the chair upon the coming away or decease of Messrs. Verelst and Cartier.

80. Upon considering the case of Mr. Samuel Middleton who was with others of your Council dismissed for receiving presents from the Indian princes in 1764, and it appearing that circumstance happened before his knowledge of the covenants or the orders against that practice, we have resolved

to readmit him into the Company's service and stationed him in the Council next below Mr. James Alexander.

81. As Mr. Francis Fowke's ill state of health prevents his proceeding to his station as a writer to your Presidency, we have permitted him to remain in England till next season without prejudice to his rank.

82. Mr. Edward Eyre Burges appointed a writer for your settlement being at present in Bengal, we have sent his covenants on the *Morse*, which are to be properly executed and returned.

83. In your letter of the 13th September you advise that you had dismissed Mr. Edward Fenwicke for giving to Mr. Bolts copy of a minute delivered in by Colonel Smith; and in your advices of the 28th March following, you write that you had since been induced from a representation of his situation and circumstances to permit of his remaining in India till our pleasure was known. And, as such acts of infidelity require examples should be made of the guilty we approve of your proceedings; but in consideration of his youth and your representation of his case, we have agreed to readmit him into the service, to rank next below James English Keighley, and you are to call him before the Board and reprimand him for his late imprudent conduct.

84. We have appointed the Reverend Mr. James Burn, who proceeds on the *Lord Mansfield*, to be one of our chaplains at your Presidency with the same salary and allowances as were assigned to the Reverend Mr. Pennington by our letter of the 11th November 1768.

85. We have considered the 98th paragraph of your General Letter of the 2d February 1769 requesting our permission for Mr. Sykes's acceptance of a present<sup>14</sup> from the Nabob; and as it is said the value is not very considerable but was given to him as a testimony of esteem for his upright conduct and services during the time he was Resident at the Durbar, we permit him to retain it, but will not have this permission made a precedent, as we have resolved by our letter to your Select Committee of this date to put a stop both to the receiving as well as giving of presents except where eastern customs shall have made them expedient, when you are to confine your gifts within the bounds already directed.

86. The attorney to the Right Honorable Lord Clive presented two certificates for acceptance amounting to C.Rs. 164829-3-6 and requested we would pay them at the rate of 2s 2½d the current rupee and 365 days sight; but as our orders of the 16th March 1768 settled the rate of exchange at two shillings the current rupee, we refused to comply with his request, whereupon the certificates have been returned. We must here remark that you have acted very improperly and without our authority in granting those certificates as His Lordship was entitled to bills at the beforementioned rate, which if his attornies had refused you should not have granted certificates for the amount, which we apprehend will bring an expence of interest upon the Company.

87. Mr. Francis Faugoin sent on the *Lord Camden* in 1766 a chest of silver containing 184 oz. 8 dwt. consigned to his son, a writer at your Presidency, who died before that ship's arrival; and although the silver was landed yet Mr. Faugoin's attorney hath not been able to procure the least intelligence concerning it. We therefore direct that you make a strict enquiry who received



it from the ship and to whom it was afterwards delivered that we may give to Mr. Faugoin the satisfaction he desires.

88. The complaints of Mr. William Bolts<sup>15</sup> to us, his appeals to the public against the President and Council of Calcutta, and also the Select Committee there, are of too serious and interesting a nature not to deserve our particular attention and consideration.

89. We have ordered a full state of his case and every material circumstance attending it, collected from the different accounts and papers we have been furnished with (except what regarded his agents the Armenian merchants who are now in London and of whom we shall hereafter make mention), to be laid before the most eminent council in this country as well as the Company's Standing Counsel; and we shall now communicate to you the substance of their concurrent opinions upon different points respecting this affair, as well as our directions for the future regulation of your conduct in matters of the like nature.

90. By an Act of Parliament 9th George the First a covenanted servant of the Company who has been dismissed or has resigned may have notice given him to quit India, in case he is not otherwise lawfully authorized to continue there. And if such person shall refuse to depart from the East Indies after reasonable time allowed (twelve months in ordinary cases seem very sufficient) for settling his accounts and calling in his effects, he will be liable to be seized and brought to England, and prosecuted as an offender according to the provisions of that statute; but this power ought to be very tenderly exercised in all cases, and only for the sake of public good, where the privileges and commerce of the Company are invaded by such offenders, their regulations violated and their European or Indian enemies abetted and supported. In the present case, the President and Council appear from the papers to have had just grounds of dissatisfaction with Mr. Bolts, but they have given him considerable advantages against themselves in the course of their proceedings. First, the appointment of him to the office of Alderman after the letter of suspension in August 1766 amounts in law to a license to remain in India (though not to trade there), the very nature of his duty and office under the Charter<sup>16</sup> for establishing courts of justice in Bengal requiring his acceptance of the office and his attendance under penalties. The consequence of this is that every notice to depart subsequent to his nomination as an Alderman till after a legal removal from that office may be considered as void in law, being given to a person not found or being in the East Indies without license but (as the abovementioned statute 9th George the First expresses it) lawfully authorized thereunto. The office of Alderman continues for life, and can be vacated only by voluntary departure or by amotion for reasonable cause in the judicial manner required by the Charter. Therefore, an Alderman is less dependent on the discretionary powers of the President and Council than a free merchant whose license is expired, or a mere servant who is dismissed or has resigned. It is not improbable that Mr. Bolts resigned the service of the Company in November 1766 in order to avail himself of the benefit of this distinction. Secondly, it is extremely doubtful whether Mr. Bolts has been duly and legally removed from his office of Alderman. As to the offence charged upon him in endeavoring to secrete and suppress, or render ineffectual, his indentures with the Company for the sake of defeating any action for breach of his covenants, it



seems clear that by reason of the relation which the different branches of the Company's service bear to each other and to the whole of their constitution, a misbehavior or misdemeanor so described might be the foundation of a complaint against him in his corporate capacity, and if fully charged and proved be a reasonable cause of motion; but it appears that no steps were taken for that purpose from November 1766 when he resigned till long after the notices to depart and the peremptory order of May 4th, 1768, that he should be sent to Europe by the first ship dispatched that season. The information against him was not exhibited till the end of August 1768, within less than a month of his seizure, not so much by way of original complaint seemingly as by way of recrimination to retaliate for his presentment to the Grand Jury, and his several protests, and prosecution of Baber and Boughton, the Clerk of the Peace and Secretary of the Select Committee. The matter of the information ought also to be considered. It suggests merely an accusation for signing the new covenants not with his own hand but by his writer, which Mr. Bolts will be advised by his counsel was equally binding in law with his own signature, and they will excuse it by saying that no man of common sense could be absurd enough to think otherwise, and that his inducement to it might be an idle but innocent one, to evade a rash oath which he had sworn that he would never sign them. Baber's evidence indeed goes materially further than the information, and charges him with a different offence, though not put in issue, *vizt.* with endeavoring artfully to procure a re-delivery of the deed into his own custody with some bad design (not explained by the witness and therefore it is impossible to say what the offence is) under colour of re-executing it. Besides this, the summons is defective in not specially requiring Mr. Bolts to shew cause why he should not be removed (according to the special authority given by the Charter) from the office of Alderman on account of his offence, whereas neither the summons nor information takes any notice of his removal or what was intended by them; and the sentence pronounced against him upon the 5th September 1768 only declares him disqualified, but is no formal or regular judgement of amotion or removal.

91. Some of those objections might probably be held too strict in an action for damages brought by Mr. Bolts against the President or Council; but if the amotion should be deemed valid in a court of law in England, still it seems necessary to have given a new notice for his departure out of India after such removal from his office of Alderman, and that the time which intervened between the day of the sentence and the day of seizing his person, that is between the 5th and 23d September, was by much too short. On the other hand it is true that the President and Council appear to have acted without any ill intention towards the Company, but not with that coolness and circumspection we could have wished.

92. As to Mr. Bolts's complaints that the witness were not permitted to be examined in support of his petition or presentment to the Grand Jury on the 27th May 1768, there is no doubt but that the offer made by the court to adjourn to another day in order that the witnesses might be regularly summoned or served with subpoenas was consistent with justice and the rules of proceeding. Neither the prosecutor nor the Grand Jury were entitled to the aid of the court, upon the sudden, for the purpose of compelling witnesses

in the manner it was asked ; but if the witnesses had been duly served with subpoenas to appear, in that case, any objections to the examination of them arising from the duty of their offices and obligation to secrecy must have been made by the witnesses themselves at the time of their examination and proposed to the court for their judgement.

93. We are clearly of opinion upon the whole that the proceedings against Mr. Bolts have not been sufficiently regular and cautious ; and that the event of an action for false imprisonment (if any shall be brought hereafter ) against the President or any of the Council will depend much on the impression which the various circumstances of the case may make upon a jury. If Mr. Bolts shall appear to the court and jury to have been well removed from his office of Alderman, and to have acted with insolence towards his superiors and in breach of his duty to the Company, he will fail in his action ; but in case his amotion from his corporate office shall be held illegal, it is probable that he will recover considerable damages as a person seized and sent home without warrant from the statute, and consequently contrary to law.

94. It is indeed matter of astonishment to us that Mr. Bolts, who was actually under a conditional suspension in August 1766, should during that period be elected into the office of Alderman by the President and Council, who only could chuse him, which office, though it confers on him no authority or license to trade after actual resignation or dismissal, yet certainly it impowers him to reside in India, and obliges him to perform the duty of his office for life, unless he should be guilty of some offence amounting to a just cause of dismissal or amotion from that office according to the charter of justice.

95. The Select Committee most clearly are not impowered to act in a judicial capacity ; they can administer no oath, nor compel persons or partys to appear before them either to give evidence or to answer accusations or charges against them, nor can they make, decree, or pronounce legal judgements. In matters very important and interesting to the Company, they do well to enquire into and investigate them to the bottom ; but this must be done upon voluntary information and evidence, and party's accused should have reasonable notice and time given to justify themselves if they can, whether they chuse to appear or not ; if upon good evidence, which when taken *viva voce*, the witnesses must be sworn before a magistrate capable of administ[e]ring an oath, who should likewise be present at the examination and discussion of the matter ; or if taken in writing, such depositions should be in like manner duly sworn before a Magistrate that the facts and charges are properly made out and supported. In case the matter should be an object of civil jurisdiction, there is a court always open for hearing and determining the same ; if on the other hand it should be a ground for criminal prosecution, there is a court of justice legally established before which such offences should be brought and tryed. If the charges so proved should not be proper subjects of civil or criminal jurisdiction, but rather of a political nature tending to affect the Company's rights and interests, or to disturb the Government or repose of the country, we think that although the Select Committee may have power to dismiss from the Company's service, suspend, or censure the guilty partys, yet it may be more prudent to let such dismissions, suspensions,

or censures proceed from the President and Council in that public capacity, and as their act. There may be times and circumstances when this may be impolitic or impracticable, and therefore what is now suggested is more properly matter of advice and recommendation than of absolute direction, as we are sensible no general rule or order can be established.

96. The creditors of Mr. William Bolts have presented a request to us agreeable to the enclosed copy, desiring we would send directions to our several settlements to give every necessary and proper assistance to his attornies or agents for securing, collecting, and remitting to England his outstanding concerns. It is therefore our positive direction that you comply with their request accordingly.

97. The relations of Mr. Samuel Mesman, deceased, late in our military service at your Presidency, have represented that his executor Mr. John Bryer hath not accounted to them for the amount of his effects. We therefore direct that you call upon the executor to close his accounts and remit the balance to Europe.

98. Cogee Gregore Cojamaul and Cojee Johannes Padre Rafael, Armenian merchants, have presented a memorial<sup>17</sup> to us, complaining that they had been seized, imprisoned, and sent down from Sujah Dowla and Bulwant Sing's countries, where they resided with the consent of those princes, to Patna and Moorshedabad, and that they continued under confinement a long while and suffered other hardships and indignities to the great detriment of their affairs; and notwithstanding they several times applied to your President to know the reasons for such ill treatment that they might justify themselves, yet they could never learn the cause, or procure any redress, and therefore have been obliged to come to England in order to seek that justice they were denied in Bengal and requesting we would make good their losses or order home President Verelst and such other servants as shall appear to have been the acting persons in those oppressions. We enclose copy of their memorial and expect a faithful relation of the whole affair with your motives that we may do them justice for any injuries it shall appear they have sustained; though we hope the allegations in their memorial are not well founded, you should have endeavored to have accomodated this affair in Bengal, as their appearance here in a clamorous manner may prove prejudicial to our affairs and is very displeasing.

99. We have permitted Mr. John Brown to proceed to and remain in Bengal two years to recover the effects of his late brother Mr. Robert Brown, a factor at your Presidency.

100. We acquainted you in our letter of the 7th December last of our intention to send by the ships of this season about 2,000 recruits for the service of our three Presidencies. We now acquaint you that 600 of them are designed to be sent to your Presidency, 700 for Fort St. George, and 700 for Bombay; and we have ordered our President and Council at Fort St. George that if they shall have more than will compleat their establishment, they do send the surplus to Bengal or Bombay as they shall see occasion, giving the preference to your Presidency.

101. Captain John Green, who distinguished himself much to our satisfaction when at your Presidency by the proper arrangement of your military stores, having re-established his health returns to India in the station of

Major of Artillery upon your establishment to rank next below Lieutenant Colonel Winwood, and we have also appointed him Inspector of Military Stores at our several Presidencies. He accordingly proceeds first to Fort St. George to inspect and arrange their military stores, and when he has completed that business, he is then to proceed to Bombay for the same purpose, for which services he is to be paid the salary of £400 per annum as Inspector of Military Stores during his continuance at Fort St. George or Bombay and such reasonable charges as he shall be put to in going from one Presidency to another. He is also to enjoy the pay and allowances of Major of Artillery upon your establishment from the time of his arrival at Fort St. George, which is to be remitted to him or paid in Bengal as he shall advise. When he has completed his business at Fort St. George and Bombay he is to repair to your Presidency, when you are to avail yourselves of Major Green's services by inspecting and arranging your military and artillery stores in such manner as to render them the most serviceable and prevent the heavy charges which have been incurred in the condemnation of stores as unserviceable. He is also to be present at all proofs of ordnance that we may not again suffer by the ignorance of those who have attended that duty, and to resume his post of Major of Artillery agreeable to his rank; but it is our intention that the £400 per annum allowed him for his services at Fort St. George and Bombay is to cease upon his arrival at Bengal, where he is to have no other emolument but what arises from his being Major of Artillery on your establishment.

102. Some favorable circumstances appearing in the case of Captain John Stainforth who was cashiered by a court martial for uttering words when inflamed with liquor tending to threaten the life of Lord Clive, and having expressed the utmost horror and detestation of that act, and having also obtained His Lordship's forgiveness, we have been induced to restore Captain Stainforth to the rank he held before he was cashiered, which was next below Captain Samuel Hannay.

103. We have also permitted Captain James Skinner, who came home for the recovery of his health, to return to his duty without prejudice to his rank.

104. In your letter of the 2d February 1769 you acquaint us that Captain Henry Watson, your Field Engineer, conceived himself in some degree injured by our appointing Messrs. Pearse and Lillyman to be Majors who are his juniors in His Majesty's service and the last was taken out of the same corps. Upon having recourse to our General Letter to you of the 1st June 1764 it appears Mr. Watson was appointed Field Engineer with the rank of Captain. As such he may rise in the infantry to the rank of colonel, whereas Mr. Pearse by being appointed Major of Artillery and Mr. Lillyman to the same rank in the Corps of Engineers cannot rise higher than lieutenant colonel. Therefore, we do not think he can be injured by their appointment, and it would be an injustice to those gentlemen who went out from hence under an express agreement for us to supersede them by granting Captain Watson's request, though from your recommendation of him we are willing that every favor should be granted him without prejudice to others, and he may depend upon our always bearing his merit in mind.

105. We approve of the regulations you have made for the payment of the gratuity to the military officers as advised in your letter per *Valentine*.



106. The friends of Mr. Samuel Seares, at present a Lieutenant Fireworker at Bombay, having represented that his father who is a Captain upon your establishment is very desirous his son should be removed to Bengal, we have therefore directed our President and Council of Bombay to send Mr. Seares accordingly, and we hereby appoint him a Lieutenant Fireworker at your Presidency to rank next below Mr. Robert Dawes.

107. The relations of Mr. John Griffiths who went out a cadet to Bombay last season having requested he may be removed to your Presidency, we have given orders to Bombay for his removal accordingly, and upon his arrival in Bengal he is to rank next below Mr. James Clements.

108. We have appointed Mr. James Fisher to be a Lieutenant Fireworker in your artillery to take his rank as such from the day of his arrival.

109. Thomas Waite who went out as a recruit in 1764 and by the last account was a private sentinel in Major Brereton's company, and as we learn from the representation of his friends that he is a person of family and fit to be advanced to a superior station, it is therefore our direction that in case he has behaved to your satisfaction you appoint him a cadet to rank next to the last of this season.

110. In a letter from your Select Committee of 21st December 1767 to Brigadier General Smith you write that "As the number of the sepoys attached to each brigade requires more than one field officer to command them, we are of opinion that another may be added to each brigade of sepoys. We have taken the matter into consideration, but before we come to a final resolution, we shall be glad to have your sentiments on this occasion." And, in answer thereto under the 12th January the General writes, "As to a second major of sepoys, when the necessity of the times obliged Lord Clive to promote so many extraordinary majors as afforded an appointment of two to each brigade of sepoys, the second major was little more than a cypher." Yet in direct opposition to this opinion you resolve to appoint them, and did accordingly appoint two lieutenant colonels without giving the least reason for it; and though we made a new regulation<sup>18</sup> of your military here, which arrived in August 1768, yet this very extraordinary letter was sent to General Smith in November following, "Notwithstanding the Court of Directors have been pleased to make an additional number of field officers in proportion to the strength of their regiments, we are of opinion that the appointment of a lieutenant colonel and major to the sepoys of each brigade is as necessary as ever", and in your letters to the Company not the least notice is taken of these appointments. With these orders before you we are surprized to find how you could presume to act in direct contradiction to them and therefore highly disapprove of your conduct in taking upon you to increase our military establishment, which we will not admit of in future except upon very urgent occasions and then assign reasons, and point out the necessity of the measure in the clearest and most satisfactory manner for our confirmation. As the right of appointing officers on an increased establishment can only rest in us, the utmost therefore that you should have done was to have represented the necessity of such appointments and waited our orders; but as it would be hard upon the officers you appointed, who have behaved well in our service, and as you could not be acquainted with our having appointed field officers here,



we have determined to continue them; but on any future vacancies, they are not to be filled up, our intention being that you should revert to the former establishment of one major to each brigade. And we hereby declare that if you should hereafter presume to alter the military establishment laid down from the Court of Directors by the appointment of any additional and extraordinary officers to such establishment as has been done in this instance, it is our fixed resolution to dismiss those persons from our service, be they whom they may, who shall take upon themselves to concur in such notorious disobedience of our orders.

111. As it is very essential that the natives should be kept as ignorant as possible both of the theory and practice of the artillery branch of the art of war, we esteem it a very pernicious practice to employ the people of the country in working the guns, and therefore direct that in future four European artillery men be constantly attached to the service of the two guns which belong to each battalion of sepoys, and that no native be trusted with any part of this important service, unless necessity should require it.

Select Cons.  
29th Novr. 1768.

112. From the experience we have had of persons who have gone out as cadets and upon their arrival have declined entering into the military service but have entered into other employs either as surgeons, clerks, or in the seafaring way, we have determined to discourage all such practices in future not only for imposing upon us in order to get to India and putting us to a needless expence, but as it is a disappointment in regard to the supply of officers for our army. We therefore direct that whenever any cadets shall refuse or decline to continue in the military you send them to England and on no pretence whatever permit of their remaining in India.

113. Since our General Letter of the 17th March last in which (paragraph 64) we repeated our directions that written contracts should not be taken from the military officers in our service in India, the judges of the Court of King's Bench (in which court the actions brought against Lord Clive by Captains [*sic*] Parker and Lieutenant Vertue<sup>19</sup> were heard and determined by special juries in favor of His Lordship) have unanimously determined after a solemn hearing that the military officers in India could not in all cases and whensoever they thought fit resign the Company's service, which determination leaves it open to our Presidents and Council to judge of the reasonableness of accepting or refusing such resignations, which must depend on the particular circumstances attending each case, for we hope no resignation will be desired from picque, resentment, or any other unjustifiable motive, and in general they should not be refused unless the necessity of the service or the exigency of our affairs makes them unjustifiable or unwarrantable.

114. Lieutenant William Vertue applied to the Court of King's Bench for a new tryal against Lord Clive which was refused, as the judges were very clearly of opinion that Lieutenant Vertue was an officer in the Company's service and in pay for the month of May, on the 8th of which month he threw up his commission; that Colonel Smith had no right to accept that commission; that Lieutenant Vertue had resigned during the time he by the acceptance of pay had bound himself to serve; that he resigned without obtaining the proper leave or license so to do; that his asking leave to resign

argued his own conviction, he could not resign without leave, but without regard to that, Lieutenant Vertue had not a right to resign under the circumstances and in the manner he did.

115. Having reason to be dissatisfied with the conduct of Monsieur St. Lubin, a French gentleman who we are informed enjoys the protection of our flag at Fort St. George, you are therefore in case he should come to Bengal, not to give him the least countenance, but oblige him to retire from your Presidency immediately.

116. Should Mr. Vernon Duffield<sup>20</sup>, late a military officer upon your establishment, and who by our last advices, we are informed, was at Fort St. George, come to Bengal, it is our positive order that you send him to England by the first opportunity.

117. Mr. Burghall, late a Captain Lieutenant at your Presidency, having established his right to a proportion in the Nabob's donation to the army from Meer Jaffier in 1763 and being appointed Chief Engineer for Fort Marlbro', we have on his application lent him £500 as part of his share therein, and as a security hath given an assignment for the same, agreeable to a copy enclosed. You must therefore if the amount of the donation money is paid to the agents to [sic] apply to them for payment of that sum, and so in like manner if they shall have paid it to his attornies, and acquaint us with the result of your proceedings, which you must also advise to our President and Council at Fort Marlbro', that if it is not recoverable in Bengal they may stop the amount out of his growing pay according to an obligation he hath entered into for that purpose.

118. Captain John Donnellan,<sup>21</sup> late a Captain of Foot in our service upon your establishment, was by a court martial held at Masuliptam in 1759 dismissed the service for a breach of the 12th Article of War, and the Captain thinking himself greatly injured by such sentence hath applied to us for a favorable declaration as to his conduct to enable him to return into the King's service or to be granted a copy of the proceedings of the court martial in order to obtain a revisal thereof. But as we could not find any mention either in our letters or records of this transaction, or that a copy of the proceedings are either in the Company's or Colonel Forde's possession who commanded at Masulipatam in 1759, we could not give him the relief he sought; and as the omission to send the proceedings of courts martial is attended with great inconvenience in case the parties appeal to our determination here, or are inclined to apply to any other tribunal for redress, we therefore direct that you procure if possible an authentic copy of the proceedings of Captain Donnellan's court martial properly attested; and in future you must not fail sending either the original proceedings or such authentic copies in duplicate as would be admitted as evidence in a court of justice as also of the warrant under which such courts are held, and all letters and papers which shall be produced in evidence in such courts martial.

119. We have long wished for and repeatedly recommended it to our several Presidencies to think upon a plan for the relief of wounded and disabled officers and private men and their widows whose indigence and merit may justly entitle them thereto; and as Major General Coote did before his departure for India pressingly represent to us the propriety and expediency of such

a plan, we cannot but earnestly recommend the same to your most serious consideration and that you will take the opinion of General Coote thereon. The present is especially the season when this subject should be considered, because as we have under our adjustment the mode of rendering the fund for the relief of disabled military in our service as extensively useful as possible, we think that the fund which may be formed by you and our other Presidents and Councils in India, either by stoppages from the pay of the military or any other mode you may think most eligible, added to the before-mentioned fund for the relief of disabled military in our service, may together form an aggregate, sufficient to relieve the distresses of those who may become from the events of providence the subjects of such compassion.

120. When you have thoroughly weighed and considered this matter you must advise us with the result of your sentiments hereupon for our making such rules and regulations as may best answer the general utility of the plan.

121. By the *Shrewsbury* you sent home Messrs. Allen Probyn and Starkie, cadets, and Robert Mitchell, gunner, as charter party passengers without taking the least notice of them in your General Letter. We direct that in future you do not omit to insert both in your General Letters and upon Consultations an account of all passengers you send home with your reasons for sending them.

122. Having already given our sentiments at large upon the subject of the former gold currency and the institution of another as mentioned in your General Letter of the 28th March 1769 and in the Consultations the 20th of the same month, being of great importance, we do not choose to give any particular directions thereon, as we shall refer this matter to the determination of the Commissioners. But, in general, we fear no regulation can accomodate the country with specie, as you say the inconvenience arises from the real want of specie in the province. At present we see no other objection to its being put in practice, except the smallness of the pieces and false coinage; you ought not to have made any pieces of gold of less value than two rupees, because the smallness of the piece will subject it to loss, and as the Company must receive them on account of the revenues, if there should be any false coinage, it would ultimately fall on the Company.

123. In your General Letter per *Valentine*, you advise us that “the bullocks that were provided by the Government for the use of our army having proved so extremely bad that you were obliged to dismiss them, the contractor represented the hardship he laboured under from this order, and in consideration of the bullocks having been disposed of, you absolved him from that part of his contract wherein he agrees to accept of and to defray the expence of maintaining those bullocks; an indulgence he has since assured you, he is very sensible of”.

13 February<sup>22</sup>  
[September] 1768,  
para. 128.

124. The management of contracts for bullocks, and the deficiencies of bullocks employed with our troops in India, have long claimed our attention. Abuses in those matters are grown to such an enormous height that we determine no longer to suffer any imposition whatever to prevail therein. We have investigated the matters referred to in the above quoted paragraph,

and must declare we believe it a vague and very partial representation of the case. In the first place it appears that Mr. Hunter, the contractor, stipulated with you that three hundred bullocks should be employed with each brigade, and, on this condition, he proposed to victual the troops in cantonments for half *batta*, because the advantage which might arise, from having this number of bullocks always in the service would in some measure compensate for the difference of *batta*, which he therefore gave up. It is highly absurd and very displeasing to us that this article of bullocks should be made responsible for losses or inconveniences suffered by the contractor in his other stipulations. If three hundred bullocks were at that time absolutely necessary for each brigade, which we much doubt, certainly it was your duty to contract for them on the lowest footing of expence for which good cattle might be provided and maintained, and not to establish a higher price than was absolutely necessary for a large number of bullocks, which might on any account enable the contractor to draw undue advantages from such contracts. Nor ought the deduction of quarter *batta* to have been put in consideration with a matter to which it had no reference. If three quarter *batta* was not necessary, it ought never to have been allowed. If it was necessary, it should have been continued; and the keeping up a stipulated number of bullocks, perhaps more than were really at the time needful for the service, ought not to have been made an argument for remitting one third of the *batta*.

125. You tell us Mr. Hunter has assured you that he is very sensible of the indulgence shewn him in absolving him from his contract. We believe he had an undoubted right to demand such absolution, and therefore see no reason why he should deem it a matter of so much favor. We find Mr. Hunter agreed to receive and pay for such bullocks as had been already purchased by the express orders of the Governor and Council. Neither the time when those bullocks were purchased, the price given for them, nor the length of the time they had been in our pay, appear on the records before us; but to our great surprize we find so little attention had been paid to this important branch of our service that of six hundred and ninety bullocks which had been purchased by express orders of the President and Council, only ninety-two were on a survey found fit for service, and therefore dismissed. Now the contractor certainly had no right to receive and pay for bullocks bought by your express orders, unless they were proper to be employed; and that they were not appears by their having been kept at our expence even three months after they had been rejected, and then sold only for 10 Rs. per pair, and some for less money. From three hundred twenty-one draught bullocks at Mongheer only thirty-nine were judged fit for service. Can it be supposed Mr. Hunter was culpable for the rejection of the other two hundred and eighty-two? Certainly he was not. Had the Government's bullocks been fit for service, no inconveniences had happened. You have not informed us who bought those bullocks; nor do we find any censure passed or notice taken of such flagrant breach of duty, for such it must be if we are charged the price of good bullocks for those unfit for service. The keeping of unserviceable bullocks is not only money thrown away, but the inconveniences attendant thereon such as we determine our service shall not be subject to on any account whatever.

126. At the same time therefore that we allow Mr. Hunter had a right to the indulgence (as you term it) shewn him in absolving him from a penalty



which in justice he ought not to pay, we must declare our utter displeasure on reviewing your own conduct in this affair.

127. The circumstance which you stile an indulgence to Mr. Hunter, and of which indulgence in February per *Valentine*, you say, he has since assured you he is very sensible, we observe with no small degree of surprize that per *Shrewsbury* you plead the very same fact as a strong argument for rejecting better terms for a new contract than those of Mr. Hunter which were intended to be offered you by Mr. Cobham. Because you then say you, and not Mr. Hunter, were guilty of a breach of contract, and that of this Mr. Hunter might have availed himself, and the penalty you in that case would have been obliged to pay would most probably be a considerably larger sum than what you could have saved in the difference of the present terms and those Mr. Cobham might offer. These contradictions greatly alarm us, and we declare ourselves astonished to find so little uniformity in your advices. It should seem you presume on our affording a very superficial attention to your records, or decency must have prevented you from suffering them to contain such glaring absurdities.

128. Mr. Cobham in his letter to you says, "Last year when the contract for furnishing and feeding bullocks and for victualling the army was put up to sale, I sent in proposals for it to this Honorable Board, but as there were others who proposed lower terms, mine were consequently rejected. I have since that time made that branch of business more particularly my study, and have it now in my power (should the like mode of publication take place this year) to offer terms more advantageous to the Honorable Board than such as would enable me to execute the business with as much justice to the Company and credit to myself as any of my predecessors in that employment."

129. Your minute on the above letter is vague and very unsatisfactory. You tell us, "The Board, having taken into consideration Colonel Smith's letter relative to the renewal of the contract and the applications of Messrs. Hunter and Cobham, are of opinion it should be continued to the former of these gentlemen from these considerations that the company have broken their contract with Mr. Hunter owing to the country government not having provided the number of bullocks they engaged, which he might avail himself of, and by that means the Company would sustain a loss that probably would not be compensated for by the difference of the present terms, and those that might be offered; and that it is but a piece of justice due to Mr. Hunter, since by the disappointment of the bullocks from the country government he has in fact not enjoyed the contract for more than six months."

130. But by examining the first article of the contract as inserted in Mr. Hunter's letter, we observe it runs in these very different terms. It is there specified that the bullocks "provided by the Honorable President and Council are constantly to be maintained in the service of the Honorable Company;" but the person who had been entrusted with that business had provided such cattle as were unfit for service.

131. By your very extraordinary resolution, fresh proposals were not suffered to be tendered, nor the promised advantages which the Company might have obtained thereby permitted to transpire; but you content yourselves with saying that in all probability they would not compensate the



penalty which Mr. Hunter might recover from your breach of contract, from which contract you had told us per *Valentine* Mr. Hunter was very thankful that you had absolved him.

132. It does not appear that Mr. Hunter has a less right to claim the penalty by you incurred than he had before you renewed the contract. We do not find that he has relinquished such right or given up his claim. Therefore, the same reasons do still subsist and the same arguments hold good for continuing the contract to him next year, and every succeeding year, till he shall have cancelled the obligation you are under to him. Certainly you must conceive very lightly of us, should we suffer such proceedings by our servants to be passed over with impunity.

133. We have the satisfaction, however, to find that one<sup>a</sup> member of the Council has better understood his duty than to concur in your said proceedings. His dissent as recorded on your Consultations is (a) Mr. Rumbold. 16th March 1769 conceived in terms, and contains such reasons for dissenting from your said resolution, which do him honour, are satisfactory to us, and which ought to have had much more weight with you than they seem to have had. We greatly approve his conduct in this respect, and do declare that whenever we find any of our servants act in the manner you have done, we shall distinguish by proper marks of our favor those who may have the prudence to conduct themselves as Mr. Rumbold<sup>23</sup> on this occasion has done.

134. It is our express orders and we hereby positively direct that you do not fail every year to advertise for and receive such proposals as may be offered for supplying the troops with provisions and for furnishing draught and carriage bullocks to be employed with our army, and that you do in all cases accept those proposals which may appear the most reasonable in point of charge. And you are also to take care that in all your advertisements a sufficient time be allowed before the expiration of the contract which may then subsist, or the time which you may limit for receiving proposals, for such persons who may become candidates for the contractorship to prepare their proposals for such contract.

135. And in order to prevent abuses in future we direct that the Commanding Officer of our troops at your Presidency do require from every subordinate officer in the several departments every fourteen days or oftener a report of the number, size, and condition of the draught and carriages bullocks furnished for and employed with the army, and that he do report the same to the President and Council monthly, or oftener, as occasion may require. And if the bullocks should at any time be deficient, he shall fully explain to what cause such deficiencies may be justly attributed whether to want of size, neglect of feeding, mismanagement, or other abuse, or to unavoidable casualties, or other circumstances such as length of time in service, the nature of such service, or otherwise; and he is also to inform himself, and signify to our President and Council at the same time, in all cases, according to the best of his judgment, how defects of every kind relative to the bullocks in the service may be remedied.

136. And as in time of war it may happen that officers in the army may by plunder or otherwise become possessed of bullocks, and as the contractor cannot be supposed to give altogether the full price which is allowed by the

Company and such officers may not be content with less, and further as the true state and condition of bullocks, were they permitted to remain the property of officers in the army, might not in case of deficiency be by them represented in a proper light, we think it for the good of our service, and do hereby direct that the contractor do not on any pretence whatever hire or employ any bullocks belonging to any of the Company's servants, civil or military, or in which they may be in anywise interested; but that all the cattle employed in our service be fairly and openly purchased or hired from such of the inhabitants who make it their business and are best qualified to provide such bullocks. And if this business should at any time cease to be managed by contract, then our pleasure is, and we hereby direct, that our Commissary General do take care to conform strictly to these our instructions in all matters relative to bullocks, hired or purchased to be employed with our troops, as he would avoid our severest censure. And we further direct that every report of the Commanding Officer (in which report shall be also inserted at length the reports of all the subordinate officers by him received) be regularly entered monthly on your Consultations for our information.

137. Laurence Orman, whose *budgrow* was pressed by Sir Robert Fletcher<sup>24</sup> at Joanpoor to transport troops to Mongheer in 1765, has presented to us a memorial making the like demand which he did to you in 1766, requesting we would consider his case and order him satisfaction for the damages he sustained. But as it appears you agreed to discharge the demand on condition he would swear to the truth of it, which he has hitherto not complied with, we are inclined to believe the demand is extravagant, and inclose for your information copy of Mr. Orman's memorial that you may give us all the information possible on this affair with your opinion what compensation is justly due to the memorialist for those damages, and let us know whether the other claimants Daniel le Doux and Gerret Du Freize mentioned in your Consultations of 18th December 1766 have been paid their demand.

138. We have upon the request of the legal representatives of Mr. Richard Wilder deceased, late agent for regulating the raw silk investment at your Presidency, paid £291-17-5, the amount of his annuity from the 25th December 1760 to the 17th September 1761 the time of his death; if you should have paid anything since on that account you must acquaint us thereof that we may demand the same of his relations here.

139. It is with great satisfaction we find the orders we gave in our letter of 20th November 1767 for your sending us a state of your revenues and charges from the commencement of the *Dewanny* have been executed in so full and particular a manner as we see in the general account now received by the *Talbot*. And we must here express the pleasure we have in observing the attention of your Sub-Accountant Mr. Darell to those orders, and the copiousness and perspicuity with which he has stated this account. Indeed, from the examination we have been able to make since the late arrival of the *Talbot*, it appears adapted to answer the ends we desired from it; and as the continuation of this account will now be easily effected, we desire and expect to receive it by the first and last ship of each season, closed as near as possible to the time of their departure. We are sorry, however, that your general account now received is extended only to the end of July 1768, but we conclude that

to have been a period the latest possible for forming it from such various accounts as were necessary to be collected for that purpose.

140. As in a plan of so diffusive a nature it was to be expected that some articles might admit of improvement or stand in need of explanation, we shall here point out a few instances of this kind. Under the head of your civil charges we observe your Military Storekeeper's disbursements to a great amount. These, we apprehend, should rather have been placed among your military charges, and as such they must stand in any abstract we may have to form of your general account, unless you satisfy us of the propriety of their present situation. We have also to remark that in the disbursements of the revenues of the Bahar province are included the remittances to Patna and Moorshedabad, by which means the charges incident to the collections do not distinctly appear. These remittances therefore should not have been carried to the total of disbursements, though we entirely approve of their being placed in columns apart as they very properly exhibit the manner in which the Bahar receipts have been applied.

141. These cursory remarks we have thought it proper to make in order that your subsequent states may be amended, or our objections be removed by the explanations you may give relative thereto.

142. From the advantages we suppose the inhabitants must receive from the lenity of our Government and from the experience which our servants must daily acquire as to the real state of the provinces and the extent of the revenues arising from the *Dewanny* of Bengal and Bahar, we had the greatest reason to expect a very considerable augmentation therein. It is therefore with equal surprise and concern we find those revenues fall short of your first statements of them, and in particular that the revenue of Dinagepore should be found over-rated to the amount of one lack of rupees, when the detection of frauds committed in former collections had given us room to hope that district would have afforded a large encrease.

143. The representation in Mr. Rumbold's letter to you on Consultation 9th February 1768 respecting the revenues of *soubah* Bahar shews us the danger we are in of having those revenues considerably reduced for the year 1768; but as the causes and necessity of these several reductions proceeds from facts and circumstances of which we cannot be sufficiently informed, this important object will necessarily fall under the cognizance of our Commissioners from whose ability for such an investigation joined with the local means of making every requisite enquiry, we persuade ourselves that the revenues of these provinces will not only be greatly extended but be fixt with the utmost stability the nature of them will admit.

144. As the whole state of your revenues will come under the observation of our Commissioners, we shall say the less on the little improvement which appears in the Midnapore and Chittagong collections, which by no means answer the expectations we formed on what our long possession of them might produce.

145. By your advices this year received we have the satisfaction to find an encrease of two lacks on the *malguzarry* of Burdwan province; but though we must acquiesce in the reasons offered by the Rajah to lessen your demand

of 38 lacks, yet we hope you will duly attend to his future ability and regulate thereby the amount to be raised on this province.

146. We observe also with pleasure that the measures you have pursued in respect to the Calcutta lands have produced a considerable addition to the former revenues of these districts and that there is a prospect of a progressive improvement therein.

147. In a letter to your Board from Mr. Becher, your late Collector General, entered on your Consultations 27th March 1769, we find some regulations and remarks so worthy of your attention that we are concerned the same were not laid before you time enough for you to have taken the same into consideration, whereby we might have received your sentiments on the several points referred to you therein.

148. We are also greatly disappointed in not receiving the books of the Collector General's department; for though the abstracts which accompany Mr. Becher's letter supply us with many useful lights, we are still deprived of several particulars necessary for our information which from the method and perspicuity we observe in the beforementioned abstracts we expect to see on the collectors' books with the utmost precision. We have only here to remark that in the Abstract No. 22 the balance of Chittagong treasury 30th April 1768 was C.Rs. 10,427-12-6, but in No. 23 this balance is said to be C.Rs. 11,536-9. This we mention to you for your enquiry and correction.

149. We have received by the *Salisbury* an account of commission on the *dewanny* revenues of Bengal and Bahar and those under your Collector General from 1st September 1767 to 31st August 1768, and by the *Shrewsbury* a like account for the subsequent half year taken on average of the revenues of the former. The nett receipt being there stated in general articles would alone have rendered your account unsatisfactory to us as we expected to see the receipts of your several revenues distinctly specified. We therefore direct that, either separate or connected with your future accounts of commission, you send us a full and particular state of the receipts of the revenues of Moorshedabad and Bahar with those of the districts and provinces on which such commission is drawn, exhibiting at the same time the several charges and deductions to which the respective revenues are subject, the whole corresponding with the period of your statements.

150. And being now to consider the shares you have thought fit to allow in addition to those appointed by our orders of 20th November 1767, we see with astonishment such an infraction of those orders and such an abuse of our generosity as appears in the distribution made by our President and Council of any part of the surplus arising from the unappropriated shares of this commission, which surplus we considered as a fund which would have admitted of our extending to our principal servants at Bombay a share of that favor we had shewn to those of your Presidency, and we accordingly directed you to remit to them the amount of  $1\frac{1}{3}$  lacks of current rupees.

151. But by your advices as well as your accounts of commission we find that, contrary to our orders respecting the distribution of this commission so fully and expressly set forth in our letter beforementioned, you have taken upon yourselves to dispose of the unappropriated shares in the following manner;



To the Chief of Patna and Superintendent of the Bahar Revenues . . . . .	2½ shares
To the Chief of Cossimbuzar . . . . .	1½ do.
To the Chief of Dacca . . . . .	1½ do.
To the surgeons of the army and of your Presidency each . . . . .	¾ „

152. As this distribution has been made in violation of our said orders, we hereby require and direct that such of you as were at that time members of our Council, and the representatives and attornies of such others as may be returned to England, do in your separate capacities forthwith pay into our treasury in Bengal the amount of the several sums paid by you as a share or shares of this commission to any person either as Superintendent of the Bahar Revenues, as Chief of either of the factories of Dacca, Patna, Cossimbuzar or Chittagong, as surgeon of the army or of your Presidency, or to any other person who may have received a share to which he was not entitled by our appointment; under which description we consider Mr. Charlton, who received a share as member of Council for nine months before his admission to a seat at that Board, the amount of which you must forthwith pay as here directed.

153. As to any bonds or other security which you may have taken for the repayment of such shares as might not be approved by us, it rests wholly with yourselves to take such measures as you may think fit for the recovery of the amount of any sums paid without our authority. For we hereby renounce and disclaim any act you may have done in opposition to our particular directions in respect to this commission. And from such breach of your duty, we hold you responsible for every undue payment.

154. We have considered the application made to your Board by Mr. John Lowe, who was stationed at Ganjam for the dispatch of the packets to and from Madras, and his representation of the losses he sustained by the irruption of Narraindoo.<sup>25</sup> But as the state of his losses which are computed at near 7,000 Rs. appears to include the sum of Rs. 4,100 for a debt due to him, we are enabled to judge how far that debt may be considered as a real and certain loss especially as Ganjam is now restored to the Company. And as we have no information respecting the particulars of the effects which amounted to the remaining sum, we must refer to your further examination the several circumstances contained in Mr. Lowe's address to you, in which you will be particularly attentive to the debt of 4,100 Rs. and whether the same be recoverable either in the whole or in part; and if upon the fullest enquiry you shall find that the facts he has represented shall entitle him to any compensation from us, we hereby permit you to make him a reasonable allowance for the losses he may have sustained in the Company's service.

155. As you inform us that a bond for C.Rs. 3,000 bought of Mr. Emmerson Tidey, and which Mr. William Berrie represents to have lost among his other effects, was standing on your books, and as in such case we think the papers you transmitted a sufficient evidence of Mr. Berrie's title thereto, especially as Mr. Emmerson Tidey has satisfied us that he has no demand in regard to the said bond, we hereby authorize and direct you to discharge the same, together with such interest as may be due thereon, taking care to have a proper security and indemnification against any demand which may hereafter be made on account of the said lost bond.



156. When you advised us that the charge of your surveyors<sup>26</sup> was extravagant, you attributed the same to the want of proper regulations, referring us to your Consultations for the plan whereby you intended to remove this inconvenience. On our adverting thereto we find your general opinion of the extravagance you purpose to prevent, but no particulars are there inserted for our information by which we are at a loss to account for your subsequent disposition.

157. This omission therefore (blamable in itself) leaves open to animadversion that part of your conduct which aims at a remedy of the first evil of extravagance by adopting a plan of larger expence than you had before thought necessary. But as you acquaint us that you concurred with Mr. Rennell's proposals from an opinion of his integrity, judgment, and frugality, we for the same reason shall acquiesce in the appointments you have made respecting this branch of business.

158. We approve of the adjustments which your late Sub-Accountant has made<sup>27</sup> of several heads on your general books which we had remarked to you; but though there are many others still open which we are desirous of having closed, we shall defer our orders relative thereto until we receive a full explanation of several credits remaining on your balance, such as account current Moradbaug, Muxadavad *batta*, bills of exchange unaccounted for, and William Watts on account of exchange. These, therefore, your Sub-Accountant will examine into and report his opinion of all such credits as can properly be closed, which when we receive we shall give our final orders respecting every head which appears to encumber your books without any utility; and for this purpose you will inform us if any part of the accounts of restitution for losses in the capture of Calcutta, 1756,<sup>28</sup> are open to any demands other than those of which we are already acquainted by the bill filed against the Company by the European sufferers.

159. We are surprized to find you have not been able to adjust the head of Benares factory, notwithstanding that factory has been so long withdrawn. This we are more impatient to have adjusted, as we apprehend the article of Sujah Dowla on account treaty money<sup>29</sup> must be connected with it, for on your General Books ending April 1768 he is credited for no more than current rupees 5,80,000 although you have long since informed us that the whole of the sum stipulated to be paid by him was fully discharged. We trust however that your Sub-Accountant will have collected such materials as shall have enabled him to adjust both these heads on your books of the last year.

160. At the same time that we approve of your continuing the old balance of Cossimbuzar until you should have received full insight into the nature of it, yet we must consider you as having been remiss in that you had not already obtained the utmost satisfaction in this point. If it shall appear that the large balance added to this factory be as you suppose the amount of it before the capture, we readily admit that from the Company's having received restitution for their losses, no more should be brought on those books than the value of the factory at the reinstating it, with such goods and effects as were afterwards recovered and such debts as were recoverable either in the whole or in part. The difference being the real loss of the factory may properly be carried to the general estimate of losses in the year 1756.

161. We cannot quit this subject without repeating our concern at the frequent representations we receive of the confusion or loss of material papers and accounts. Sensible as we are that the devastation in 1756 and the troubles since that time may have occasioned some loss or confusion in the state of your factory accounts, we have remonstrated with the less warmth on our not having duly received your subordinate books; but so long a time has now elapsed since we had a right to expect they were brought into order, that your not sending us a compleat series of them must be considered as a wilful neglect of our repeated orders, and this is now aggravated by your total silence on this head when we expected to have received the books of your subordinates for the several years they have been omitted. But as it is extremely irksome to us to animadvert on the conduct of our servants with any severity, we shall only apprise you that we expect our former orders in this respect to be fully complied with.

162. The obstructions which prevented you from sending the books of your Military Pay Master General were very displeasing to us. We are therefore concerned at the information you give us that these books were in little more forwardness than when you first informed us of the reasons for their not being transmitted. But as we find that your late Sub-Accountant Mr. Harwood has undertaken to bring them into order, we trust from his diligence and attention which have received your approval, and from that ability which he has shewn in keeping your General Books, that those of the Military Department have e'er this been freed from the confusion and error which has hitherto retarded the balance of them, and that the whole series of the Military Pay Master's books will be sent us by the ships of this season.

163. The Military Code which we directed, being also absolutely necessary for us, to be furnished with, we hope no delay or impediment will have prevented us from receiving it in the present year.

164. We have the satisfaction to find that in consequence of our orders, you have directed a sett of books to be opened by the Durbar Resident for the revenues collected at that place, to commence from May 1768. The plan proposed by you for keeping them promises us a clear and distinct view of those revenues. We therefore hope to receive the first sett with the books of your Presidency for the year 1768-9.

165. We have here still to complain that the orders we have so often and earnestly given you to send us the restitution accounts have not yet been complied with. And we are so little satisfied with your excuse for this omission that should we be longer disappointed in this respect we shall be constrained to attribute your delay to some other reason than that of the voluminous state of these accounts.

166. In our letter of 17th March 1769 we remarked on several charges introduced into your *Buxey's* accounts which we consider as not belonging to the general service, in particular, some parts of the President's bills which appeared to be of a private nature. The like we find also in your *Buxey's* charges for the year 1768; but as we expect to receive with your next dispatches your explanations and reasons why the same has been hitherto admitted, and to find all charges which are not solely for the Company's service entirely struck off, we shall forbear making any further observations thereon.

167. We have before expressed our displeasure at seeing very large sums expended by you in plate and other sumptuary articles of your dead stock, and we are now concerned to see a continuance and even an encrease of them, for in April 1768 we observe that upwards of Rs. 4,400 was paid for the purchase of pictures.

168. We are sorry we have occasion to enter on such particulars which may appear minute; but as your growing charges are likely to become an insupportable evil to us, we must here condemn all unnecessary expence and earnestly hope to see the future charges of your Presidency governed by a judicious and regular economy.

169. Although it might have been expedient for you to purchase a house to be employed as an hospital, we cannot pass unnoticed the price it appears you have given for one bought of Mr. Kiernander<sup>30</sup> amounting to A.Rs. 98,900, and this too when the same was so far from being compleat for the purpose that you advanced no less than A.Rs. 76,800, in part of your contract with Mr. Kiernander, for building a new hospital.

170. We cannot but see with astonishment the house of a private person valued at so high a rate, and more especially as your former purchases of this kind never but in one instance exceeded C.Rs. 20,000, and that the house you thought fit for the Nabob's residence was valued only at C.Rs. 17,280. We must therefore desire you to explain to us the nature and convenience of this purchase, the value of which so far exceeds any estimation we can form of a private building in Calcutta; and we positively forbid, at the peril of answering for the same in your private capacities, making any such unreasonable purchases in future without our orders first had and obtained.

171. From a remarkable account of a cure being effected in the disorder of the liver, communicated to us by a gentleman of rank in our military service at Bombay by the means of castor oil, which we are told in the East Indies is known by the name of *erindo* oil, we have taken the opinion of a physician of great eminence upon the case as stated, and we herewith send you for the information of the physical people at your settlement extracts of the letters upon the occasion, both from the physician and the gentleman who received the cure. And should you at any time be made acquainted with any extraordinary cases, and any new method of cure which has been attended with success, you will do well to send us a circumstantial detail of such cases properly attested to enable us for the public good to communicate such copy to the learned among the faculty here, and to take their advice and opinion thereupon.

*Eighthly, concerning the Charter*

172. We have laid the several paragraphs of your advices received last season relating to law matters before our Standing Council, and received his opinion thereon, a copy of which comes a number in the packet.

173. By the *Shrewsbury* we received your answer to Mr. Bolts's appeal to the King and Council for removing him from being an Alderman of the Mayor's Court, but you omitted to send the proceedings relating thereto properly authenticated under the seal of the Company so as to become evidence before the Lords of Council which you ought certainly to have done, and more

especially as they were granted to Mr. Bolts or his attorney, as set forth in his petition to His Majesty to which we have been obliged to have recourse. You must not fail sending by the first opportunity in duplicate all the proceedings respecting his removal under the seal of the Company and attested by the Clerk of Appeals; and in all cases for the future where you have any apprehension that appeals are intended you must forthwith send the proceedings properly authenticated under the seal of the Company to be made use of here for their defence.

174. You will observe that your answer to Mr. Bolts's petition of appeal lodged in India constitutes no part of the proceedings, for it was out of course and practice to make any answer to it, either by way of plea, demurrer or otherwise, nor is any part of the proceedings in the Mayor's Court relevant to this sentence against Mr. Bolts, which could only be brought before the Governor and Council. Therefore the transcript or copy you are to transmit is to end with your letter, giving notice of your judgment and his removal from the office of Alderman to the Mayor's Court.

175. In the *Shrewsbury's* packet we received a declaration of Mr. Thomas Kelsall, Chief at Dacca, on oath reciting a conversation that passed between him and Mr. Daniel Lankheet relative to a clandestine trade carried on at Dacca between Mr. Bolts and Mr. Vernet, the Dutch Governor at Chinsura, to a very great amount in prejudice to the Company's investment; but as this representation is not authenticated either by Mr. Lankheet's affidavit or any other evidence, we cannot make any use of it in justification for your sending Mr. Bolts to England in the manner you did; but we hope and expect that you have made a very strict enquiry into this affair, and punished such of our servants as have been found guilty of such notorious infidelity to their employers; and we desire you will not fail to transmit the whole of your proceedings in this respect to us authenticated in the clearest and fullest manner so as to be made use of as evidence in the courts of record here, if there should be a necessity so to do in order to obtain justice and satisfaction to the Company for this offence. Mr. Lankheet's information at large upon oath touching this transaction seems to be the most material evidence, and we hope you will be able to obtain it.

### *Supplement*

176. In your letter of the 26th August 1767, you acquaint us that the *Calcutta* was appointed to carry seapoys to the Coast, but in that of the 14th September you say that after she was hove down, it appeared she had sprang her main mast, and would be obliged to be detained until the proper season for sending her to Bombay to be refitted, in consequence of which you were under the necessity of hiring the *Savage*, a country ship, at the rate of sixteen Arcot rupees for each sepoy embarked on board and the enormous demorage of five hundred Arcot rupees a day for all the time she should be detained at Vizagapatam above four days. We have upon settling the *Calcutta's* account examined very particularly into the above circumstances, and are of opinion you are highly blamable for not dismissing the ship from the Company's service so soon as you knew she was incapable of proceeding on her intended voyage, and which appears plainly to have been the occasion



of the very great expence you incurred by hiring a country ship to go in her stead, with the addition of the *Calcutta's* being on demorage without the least service. This is such a flagrant instance of your inattention as deserves our highest resentment, and cannot proceed from ignorance but rather from some interested views of which we are unacquainted. We do therefore expect your greatest care in future to avoid incurring expences by hiring country ships whilst you have ships of our own unemployed, and if any of them should be unfit, they must be turned out of the service till they are refitted in such manner as shall secure us from paying extraordinary demorage for detention ; otherwise you must expect our highest resentment.

177. You have also neglected to send an account of the damages our cargo sustained by this ship's running aground on her first arrival in your road, the particulars whereof you must transmit in duplicate by the returning ships.

178. The very favorable account you have transmitted of Mr. Maddison's abilities, his great progress in the knowledge of the Persian tongue, which we have more than once recommended should be studied by our servants, and his diligence and fidelity as Assistant at the Durbar is very agreeable to us and we shall bear his merit in mind ; but as it was our intention when we appointed him a factor that he should serve five years in that rank according to the general practice of the service, we cannot consistent therewith agree to our President's request for Mr. Maddison's serving only three years in that station.

179. Having taken into our most serious consideration the magnitude and importance of the management of our affairs depending on your civil establishment, and that the administration thereof may be conducted to the greatest advantage of the Company and the prosperity of all under their protection, we have fully instructed the Commissioners to carry the following resolutions into execution. That with the Governor and exclusive of the Military Commander the Council of Bengal shall consist of nine members and no more. That none of the Council be permitted to act as Chiefs of any of the subordinate factories, but shall all constantly reside at Calcutta, the Resident at the Durbar, if that office shall be filled by a Counsellor, and the Military Commander excepted. That no member of the Council shall have any employ annexed to that station, but that all offices be executed by the senior servants not members of the Board. And that the said Council be formed into proper committees that the controul, superintendency and direction of the Company's affairs at the Presidency and subordinates may be faithfully and impartially transacted to their greatest benefit and advantage. You must therefore comply with such instructions and directions as they shall think proper to give relating thereto until you shall receive our orders thereon.

180. Besides the foregoing regulations, it is our pleasure that our Governor of Bengal, Commander in Chief for the time being, and three senior members of our Council be a Select Committee, with power to make regulations respecting peace and war, and negotiate with the country powers but not finally to conclude any treaty, until the terms and conditions of such treaty shall have been first approved by our Governor and Council. The Governor singly shall correspond with the country powers ; but all letters, before they shall be by him sent, must be communicated to the other members of the



Select Committee and receive their approbation, and also all letters whatever, which may be received by the Governor in answer to or in the course of his correspondence, shall likewise be laid before the said Select Committee for their information and consideration, and all their proceedings and correspondence must be regularly entered on their Consultations and sent home in duplicate.

181. And you are also to observe that we do not mean by the foregoing arrangement to disannul the directions we have already given in case of an attack of any of our settlements in Bengal contained in the 20th paragraph of the General Letter of the Court of Directors of the 12th May 1758, and the Committee for Defence in case of attacks is to be composed of the Governor, Commander in Chief, and Chief Engineer for the time being.

182. From the arrangement we have now formed in regard to the fixed residence of the Council at Calcutta and from the alterations we have made to our military establishment respecting field officers, it is become necessary for us to make a new distribution of the commission of 2½ per cent. on your nett territorial revenues, which by our letter of the 20th November 1767 we permitted you to draw and appropriate as therein expressed. We therefore do hereby order and direct that from the receipt hereof one-eighteenth part be first drawn from the amount of the commission of 2½ per cent. on your said nett territorial revenues and paid as a separate share to Major General Coote, Commander in Chief of all the Company's forces in the East Indies, and that the sum which shall remain after such deduction be divided into one hundred parts or shares, which shares are to be distributed in the manner following, *vizt.*,

To the Governor . . . . .	31 shares.
Second of Council . . . . .	4½.
Brigadier General Sir Robert Barker . . . . .	5½.
Seven members of Council each . . . . .	2.
The Colonels . . . . .	5 to be divided amongst them in equal proportions.
Lieutenant Colonels . . . . .	8½ to be divided equally amongst them.
Majors . . . . .	5¼ to be equally divided amongst them.

But for your more particular information we transmit you copy of the distribution as calculated here.

183. And you are to take notice that the whole of the unappropriated shares, together with what may be added thereto by the decease or resignation of Major General Coote, is to be applied as directed in the 117th paragraph of our General Letter of the 20th November 1767.

184. Brigadier General Richard Smith having signified his intention of resigning his post of Commander in Chief of our forces under your Presidency as soon as your affairs will permit, we do therefore, as a proof of our good opinion of the abilities and military conduct of Sir Robert Barker,<sup>31</sup> appoint him to be Commander of our forces under your Presidency upon the death or coming

away of Brigadier General Richard Smith with the rank of Brigadier General, agreeable to a copy of his commission enclosed and the pay of £750 a year, also the commission as settled in the 182d paragraph of this letter.

185. Since writing the foregoing, we have taken a review of the case of Mr. Thomas Forbes at the request of his friends ; and we direct that if on the conclusion of the suit depending against him in your Mayor's Court, damages shall be decreed in the Company's behalf, and he shall make the same good as far as his circumstances will allow, you do permit him to return to England upon his request.

186. Since Mr. David Ross's departure to your Presidency as a cadet we have appointed him to be a Lieutenant upon the Fort St. George establishment. You must acquaint him therewith and order him to proceed thither to take upon him that post.

187. We cannot but express our displeasure on observing that you have not complied with the mode suggested by us of communicating what may be necessary for our information respecting the integrity and ability of our covenanted servants, especially of those whose standing is next on the list below Council. Instead of observing our directions, you inform us, the President represents that Lord Clive's and his own correspondence with the Court of Directors may "not only induce them, but convince them of the necessity of determining the matter". We are far from approving this manner of proceeding. We must always suppose our Governor and Council best qualified to give us proper light on the subject, and from thence we expect it. We should deem it derogating from our honor were we to suffer ourselves to be swayed by private information or application in matters so interesting to the Company's service. We therefore direct that in case of vacancy or vacancies in our Council, you do forthwith, or as soon as conveniently may be, proceed to fill up such vacancy or vacancies according to the established rule of the Company's service, conforming yourselves on all occasions, as nearly as may be, to our pleasure signified by the 88th paragraph of the General Letter to your Presidency, dated 24th December 1765.

188. Having thought fit to revoke the order for the *Lord Mansfield's* proceeding to Theneriffe and directed the Governor and Council of Fort St. George to give her all possible dispatch for your Presidency, the 50 pipes of Canary wine intended for your use by the said ship will not be sent.

189. We have, since the date of our advices of the 10th November last, drawn upon you the following setts of bills of exchange at two shillings the rupee and thirty days sight.

One sett for rupees two thousand payable to James Alexander Esqr. for pounds sterling two hundred received of Geo: Richd Foley, dated the 5th January 1770.	Rs. 2000	£ 200
One sett for rupees three hundred payable to William Foster for pounds sterling thirty received of Mr. Elmes Foster, dated 12th February 1770.	300	30
One sett for rupees two thousand payable to James Alexander Esqr. for pounds sterling two hundred received of Mr. Robert Steane, dated 14th February 1770.	2000	200

One sett for rupees three hundred payable to John Bristow for pounds sterling thirty received of Mr. Richard Neave, dated 22nd February 1770.	300	30
One sett for rupees one thousand payable to Richard Tydell for pounds sterling one hundred received of himself, dated 23d February 1770.	1000	100
One sett for rupees five hundred payable to James Morris for pounds sterling fifty received of Mr. John Horsley, dated 10th March 1770.	500	50

We are  
Your loving friends.

London,  
23d March 1770.  
(Per *Mansfield*)

G. Colebrooke / P. Cust / Hy. Crabb  
Boulton / J. Purling / Fredk. Pigou /  
John Harrison / Rd. Bosanquet / Daniel  
Wier/William Snell / Peter Du Cane  
Junr. / Ben. Booth / George Cuming /  
Jn. Woodhouse / L. Sullivan / Wm.  
James / Henry Fletcher/George Demps-  
ter / Chas. Boddam / W. G. Freeman /  
Robt. Gregory.

4

PUBLIC LETTER DATED 6 APRIL 1770

*Instructions relating to despatch of a ship with cargo and stores to Balam-  
bangan to develop trade.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since the date of our letter of the [23rd] March last we have taken into our further consideration the opening a trade to the eastward. In consequence of the orders given in our advices of last season for taking possession of the island Ballambangan with which you have been acquainted and in order to avail the Company of those advantages which we are assured will result from the forming an establishment on that island, we have resolved to carry the same into effectual execution, and shall accordingly provide a ship for that purpose to be dispatched from hence early in the ensuing season with a proper cargo and stores under the conduct of such persons in whose knowledge and abilities we can confide for the furthering our intentions in regard to this undertaking, with which you will be more fully informed.
2. If possession shall be taken and maintained of the said island in our behalf you must provide the following articles, *vizt.*
- |        |       |           |            |
|--------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Ophium | Patna | . . . . . | 350 chests |
|--------|-------|-----------|------------|

*Ferret goods*

<i>Humhums</i> 24 <i>covids</i> long and 3 broad . . . . .	2000	pieces
<i>Cossaes</i> Maulda &ca. of different sorts . . . . .	1000	do.
<i>Baftaes</i> of different sorts . . . . .	2000	do
<i>Romals</i> of different sorts . . . . .	2000	do
Taffaties [Taffeta] crimson and striped . . . . .	1000	do
Blue cloth of different kinds . . . . .	2000	do
<i>Choppa Romals</i> . . . . .	500	do

which are to be laden on one of our schooners, well fitted and manned, to be dispatched at latest by the end of March 1771, consigning the same to the Governor and Council at Fort St. George, who are directed to make a timely provision of piece goods and other articles suitable to the eastern trade in order to be put on board that vessel and consign the same to our agents at Ballambangan, provided the island shall be in our possession; and you are to concert the necessary measures with our servants at Fort St. George that those orders may be punctually obeyed in their full extent.

3. Should not the ships beforementioned intended for the expedition arrive at Fort St. George in all the month of May, they are then not to fail in giving the schooner from your Presidency an immediate dispatch to the island, furnishing the commander with such instructions as from their experience and knowledge of the circumstances of the case shall appear most fitting, and particularly enjoining him to make no unnecessary delay, that he may run no risk of gaining his passage; and upon his arrival at Ballambangan he is to be directed to obey the orders of our agents there for his future proceedings; but under the circumstances of the non-arrival at Fort St. George in all month of May of the intended ship as mentioned above, our President and Council there are to appoint a proper person from their civil establishment to act in our behalf and proceed with the said schooner to Balambangan, giving him the necessary instructions accordingly, and to dispose of the cargo that shall be consigned thither on our account and purchase in return such commodities as shall be fit for the China market.

4. We enclose some instructions for the navigation of the vessel employed on this business after passing the Streights of Mallacca, which the President and Council of Fort St. George are to communicate to the commander and may be of service to such vessels as shall in future proceed thither.

5. Several cadets who were not ready in time to take passage on the ships consigned to the Coast and Bay are obliged to proceed on the *Northumberland*, *True Briton* and *Duke of Portland*. A list of the names of those for your Presidency is enclosed,<sup>1</sup> and others will be sent in each ship's packet on which they embark.

6. Mr. Charles Wedderburn, who went on the *Verelst* as a cadet for your Presidency, being a relation of Brigadier General Wedderburn's, whom we have appointed Commander in Chief of our forces at Bombay, we have at his instance appointed him a cadet for Bombay of which you must acquaint him and permit him to proceed accordingly.

7. Mr. Alexander Donaldson, one of the cadets for your Presidency who

goes on the *Duke of Portland*, is appointed in the room and with the rank of Henry Perfect, who has declined going.

8. Mr. John Fenwicke, appointed a cadet for Bengal, is to rank next below Mr. John Powell and Mr. Henry Brookes next below Mr. Fenwicke, instead of standing in the order they are named in the list per *Lord Mansfield* and *Morse*.

London,  
6th April 1770.  
(Per *True Briton*  
via Bombay)

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
G. Colebrooke / Pere Cust / Hy. Crabb  
Boulton / Jn. Woodhouse / John Mot-  
teux / Fredk. Pigou / John Harrison /  
J. Manship / Wm. James / Robt. Gre-  
gory / Daniel Wier / Henry Fletcher /  
Ben. Booth / George Cuming / W. G.  
Freeman.

## 5

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1770

*John Lindsay and M. Law appointed to negotiate and settle the disputes between the French and the English in India.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. It has been signified to us by His Majesty's Secretary of State that the Court of France had invested Monsieur Law with full powers to examine into the supposed infractions of the late treaty of peace<sup>1</sup> by the demolition of the works erected round Chandernagore and by interruptions alleged to have been given to the freedom of the French commerce in Bengal, and that in consequence of that Court's request to the King to appoint a person with proper powers to treat the matters in dispute between the subjects of the two Crowns in India, His Majesty had constituted Sir John Lindsay<sup>2</sup> his plenipotentiary for that purpose.

2. We therefore hereby require and direct you to furnish Sir John Lindsay with all possible information and to yield him the necessary assistance, whereby he may be enabled to answer the complaints of the French, to justify the conduct of the Company's servants, and to defend those rights of which His Majesty obtained the express stipulation in the late treaty of peace.

London,  
20th June 1770.

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
G. Colebrooke / J. Purling / Thos. Rous /  
Jno. Michie / John Roberts / Wm.  
James / Jn. Woodhouse / Hy. Crabb  
Boulton / Geo. Dudley / Heny. Savage /  
J. Hurlock / Ben. Booth / Robt. Gre-  
gory / John Harrison,



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1770

*Shipping news—composition of the Court's Secret Committee—instructions relating to French complaints of interference in their trade and destruction of their drainage works at Chandernagore—warning against French military preparations at Mauritius and Madagascar—investments up to Rs. 70 lakhs insisted upon, and diversion of revenue to any purpose not absolutely necessary for defence prohibited—infringement of orders relating to bills of exchange drawn on the Company in England—Bolts's case: success of his appeal to His Majesty in Council and his reinstatement as Alderman; papers relating to his suit against the Company's servants called.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our General Letter to your Presidency was dated 23d March and went in duplicate by the ships *Morse* and *Lord Mansfield* as did a letter of the same date to your Select Committee. We have since wrote a short letter in triplicate under 6th April per *Morse* and by the way of Bombay per ships *Duke of Portland* and *True Briton*.

2. The *Hampshire* arrived here the 17th, and the *Ankerwyke* the 21st April and brought us the following advices from your Presidency, vizt.

General Letter dated 25th September 1769, recd. per *Ankerwyke*.

General Letter in the Secret Department of the same date per do.....

Triplicate.....do.....6 July.....do.....

General Letter from the Select Committee dated 30th September.....  
received per *Ankerwyke*.

.....do.....do.....21st April.....do.....

General Letter dated.....23d November 1769, *Hampshire*.

do.....from the Secret Department dated same day.....do.....

General Letter from the Select Committee dated 1st December 1769.....  
per do.....

3. The gentlemen who compose our Secret Committee<sup>1</sup> for the present season are Sir George Colebrooke, Bart. Chairman, John Purling Esqr. Deputy, Henry Crabb Boulton, George Dudley, John Harrison, John Manship, Frederick Pigou, Thomas Rous, and Henry Savage Esqrs., and they are invested with the like powers as advised in our letter of the 15th September, 1769.

4. Herewith you will receive list of the arrival and departure of shipping since our last advices, also list of persons who have our permission for proceeding to the East Indies on board His Majesty's ship *Dolphin*.

5. His Majesty having ordered the *Dolphin* frigate of war, commanded by Digby Dent Esqr. to proceed to the East Indies, we embrace this opportunity to convey such informations and directions as at this time appear to us immediately necessary to be communicated to you.

6. In the beginning of the month of April last it was signified to us by Lord Weymouth<sup>2</sup> that His Most Christian Majesty<sup>3</sup> had transmitted to

Mr. Law full powers for adjusting all disputes concerning the works formed round Chandernagore, what related to interruptions alleged to have been given to the freedom of the French commerce in Bengal by the obstructing their manufactures in cutting goods out of the looms to the great prejudice of their investment, and authorized Mr. Law to settle all differences at this time subsisting or which at any time hereafter might subsist between the subjects of the two Crowns in India contrary to the 11th article of the last treaty of peace; and further that His Majesty, at the requisition of France, had resolved to send on the *Dolphin* for Bengal a plenipotentiary with powers similar to those with which Mr. Law was invested to negotiate with him on the before-mentioned subjects, which when the ministry informed us of this design appeared to be the only complaints made by the French against our servants.

7. At the time His Majesty's Ministers had this appointment in contemplation, the *Hampshire* happily arrived with your advices and Consultations, informing us at large of what had passed between you and the French concerning their works at Chandernagore, and the measures taken for effectually destroying them, as they appeared to be so formed as to be easily convertible into a line of defence in manifest violation of the treaty subsisting between the two nations.

8. Upon the receipt of these advices we immediately laid before Lord Weymouth copies thereof and of the plans of the works erected round Chandernagore, and we have the satisfaction to believe that the steps you have taken in this affair have received the approbation of His Majesty's Ministers.

9. Nevertheless it has been notified to us by a letter from Lord Weymouth that His Majesty has constituted Sir John Lindsay his plenipotentiary for examining into the supposed infractions of the late treaty of peace; and we therefore require you to afford him the necessary information and assistance for the discussion of the points in dispute between our servants and the subjects of the Crown of France in India, whereby he may be enabled to answer the complaints of the French plenipotentiary, to justify your conduct, and to defend those rights of the British Crown which were obtained by express stipulation in the Treaty of Paris and which appear to have been invaded by the proceedings of the French at Chandernagore.

10. And we must here further observe to you that when objects of a very interesting or delicate nature shall occur wherein the advice or assistance of a servant of the Crown, being in India, may in virtue of the powers he may hold or at your own instance become necessary, you are on no account to depart from those earnest and positive orders we have given you for cultivating and promoting the utmost harmony and cordiality with him for the advancement of the public service consistently with the entire preservation of the privileges and immunities of the Company. And as a mutual confidence and communication on the part of His Majesty's plenipotentiary must tend to the good of the common cause as well as the interests of the Company, you will consequently request Sir John Lindsay to give you full information of the steps he may think proper to take in his negotiation. And we have not the least doubt of his readiness to co-operate with our servants in every design calculated for the benefit of those great and valuable purposes.

11. Upon the consideration of your proceedings with the French, as stated

in your advices and Consultations, particularly on the report of Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, your Chief Engineer, accompanied with plans of the works at Chandernagore [constructed] under pretence of a drain for carrying off the stagnating waters and which, as it appears, were actually formed so as to be easily converted into lines of defence, we must, upon what you have laid before us on this insidious attempt of the French to fortify themselves in Bengal, join with you in deeming it a gross infraction of the treaty subsisting between the two nations, and therefore think you justified in the measures you have taken for reducing those works to the purpose of a drain only, and we recommend it to you in the strongest manner, by pursuing a firm yet moderate conduct, to keep them within the bounds of the late treaty. Nevertheless, at all times, when their proceedings may call upon you to act with vigour, you must not fail in the most equitable manner to make the stipulations between the two Crowns the rule of your conduct, and thereby deprive them of the least cause for charging you with any breach of the harmony and hospitality that ought to be respectively maintained by each nation.

12. Notwithstanding our approval of your conduct so far as it relates to the final measures taken by you for defeating the attempts of the French to fortify themselves in Bengal, we cannot pass unnoticed your remissness in not having prevented sooner the execution of so great a part of their design. For when we consider the progress made by the French in the works constructed by them, and the length of time which had elapsed from Lieutenant Colonel Martin's survey to that made by Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, and further that your resolution of sending your Chief Engineer a second time to examine into the state of the works carrying on at Chandernagore should be in consequence of an intimation given you by the Nabob's ministers, we cannot suggest to ourselves the least excuse for such apparent negligence and inattention as you have shewn in thus suffering those works at so small a distance from Calcutta to be prosecuted contrary to the letter as well as the spirit of the late treaty of peace and to extend to such a degree as to become formidable and dangerous to the Company's possessions.

13. And as by the letter we have received from Lord Weymouth (copy of which we herewith send you) you will see in what light your conduct in this respect appears in the eyes of His Majesty's Ministers, we require you to explain fully to us the motives of the permissions and indulgences which you may have granted the subjects of France and to exculpate yourselves from all imputation of neglect and inattention. This we expect you to do without delay, as we shall not rest satisfied under the present appearance of your misconduct in a point of so much consequence both to the Company and the nation.

14. As to the charge made by the French of interruptions in the freedom of their commerce or of obstructions to their manufactures from the servants of the Company, we have the satisfaction to find upon a careful inspection of your proceedings as they appear by your letters and Consultations that the subjects of France have no just ground for a complaint of this nature. We therefore hope you will be able to give such evidence to His Majesty's plenipotentiary as shall enable him fully to refute the charge.

15. We have here at large directed the conduct you are to observe in

regard to Sir John Lindsay's negotiation with Mr. Law, and in consequence of the desire of Lord Weymouth, we have also given you our general instructions on this subject in a separate letter under a flying seal, which you will receive from the hands of His Majesty's plenipotentiary, copy of which we now forward to you.

16. To inform you of the whole of our proceedings in the intercourse we have had with administration on the subject of your disputes with the French, and to point out to you the measures we have taken to justify your conduct therein (so far as it appeared to us justifiable), we have thought proper to send you also a copy of our reply to the letter we received from Lord Weymouth as before noticed to you. And we most earnestly hope that the representations we shall receive from you in consequence of the orders we have given you will entirely remove every objection to such part of your conduct as at present lies open to censure.

17. And we desire and direct you to continue the whole of your transactions and letters respecting the objects of Sir John Lindsay's plenipotentiary powers separately from the General Consultations of either Department in like manner as you have done your proceedings relative to Chandernagore, and you must not fail to forward the same to us by every opportunity, that we may be able to communicate without delay such facts and circumstances as it may be requisite for us to lay before His Majesty's Ministers.

18. Although we are not minutely acquainted with the strength of the French at the Islands in men and shipping, yet from various concurring accounts there is reason to apprehend that the forces there, and at Madagascar, where they are said to be forming an establishment and training the natives to arms, are numerous; but from the measures intended to be pursued by the Commander of the King's ships bound to India when at the Cape in December last, we cannot doubt of your receiving such intelligence on this interesting subject as may be relied on, and direct your future caution and prudence in the pursuit of steady and vigorous measures to render ineffectual any designs that enterprising nation may have in view prejudicial to our possessions in India; and you are not to fail paying the strictest obedience to our repeated directions that you most vigilantly and attentively observe the motions and designs of the French, being constantly prepared to guard against any intended blow from them, that you insist upon and enforce a sacred observation of the national stipulations and keep us at all times, but particularly in cases of moment, as early and speedily informed of their strength and operations in India as possible, and that by vessels to be dispatched express whenever the importance of the case may require it.

19. An Act<sup>4</sup> having passed in the last session of Parliament for better regulating persons employed in the service of the Company, and whereby the penalty recoverable on the value of illicit trade instead of thirty per cent shall hereafter be one hundred per cent, also for making persons in the Company's service who transport any warlike stores or assist therein with intent to dispose of the same in the East Indies or within the Company's limits liable to a prosecution in the Court of King's Bench for a high crime and misdemeanor and on conviction to corporal punishment or fine, and also for rendering any of the Company's civil or military servants in the



East Indies subject to be tried in the said court and punished if guilty of oppressing any of His Majesty's subjects there, we send you a large number of copies of the said Act that you may make the same as extensively publick as possible. And you are to take care that the regulations thereby established are fully and effectually obeyed by all persons within your jurisdiction, and particularly in cases of offences against the said Act which are cognizable here, you do not fail to transmit the fullest evidence in your power to enable us to bring the offenders to justice.

20. When in our letter of the 23d March last we expressed our apprehensions of the danger which threatened the Company from a design formed by you for establishing a fund for military resources on a reduction of the investments on which its very being depends, we were not without hopes that the conclusion of the Carnatic War would have put an entire stop to so destructive a measure. We therefore want words to express our astonishment at finding by the proceedings of your Select Committee of the 7th August, 1769, that notwithstanding the knowledge that Committee then had of the peace with Hyder Ally and the little occasion the Presidency of Madras could have for any considerable supplies, they should yet come to a resolution to reduce your investment for the present year to 45 lacks of rupees.

21. To justify such a resolution your Select Committee in their letter of the 23d November has laid before us a gloomy prospect of the insufficiency of your revenues to furnish the investments we have required of you and at the same time satisfy the demands which press so heavily on your finances. But as we have not yet received your statement of the 23d October (which is mentioned as the foundation of their extraordinary proceedings in respect to your opening your treasury for bills on us), we can only form our judgment of your ability by the calculate of receipts and disbursements entered on your Select Proceedings of the 21st March, 1769, by which it appears that you would have a sufficient balance at the close of the year to enable you, with the ordinary receipts of the ensuing, to provide investments equal to the utmost of our expectations, and at the same time answer the demands on you for payment of the navy and army donations<sup>5</sup>, of the sum due to the estate of Bolackadass<sup>6</sup>, and the necessary supplies of our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay.

22. The deficiency you have represented to us must therefore arise from your setting apart a sum for the establishment of a fund for future exigencies ; but as in our letter of the 23d March we have directed, in the most positive manner, that every consideration which does not affect the immediate security of our possessions is to yield to the absolute necessity of your sending us investments to the amount of at least 70 lacks, we have little more to add than to enjoin the most punctual compliance with our orders in that respect. And we have the greatest reason to hope that the permission contained in our letter by the *Lapwing* for your drafts on us will have relieved you from any difficulty on this account, even supposing the whole of the demands you have stated to us should be discharged in the current year.

23 As to your annual consignments to so large an amount, we cannot entertain a doubt of your being able to invest it in the manufactures of Bengal, especially as there was not a due proportion of fine goods in the



import of last year, to which we require your strict attention in future ; and you must take the utmost care that the fabrick be no ways debased.

24. We observe that the muslins by the ships of last season are invoiced higher than usual, yet on inspection are found so much inferior in quality and goodness to those of the same marks hitherto imported, that we are convinced the buyers will reject them even at prime cost.

25. After the sale, we shall write you more particularly on this subject, and by the first ship send samples for your own observation, as no method we can think of will so strongly evince the extreme want of attention in the Company's servants as a review of such bad manufactures, purchased indiscriminately at most exorbitant prices.

26. In order to obtain the most perfect knowledge of the situation in point of strength of the French on the island Madagascar and of the establishments they have formed there as mentioned in the 19th paragraph, we hereby direct that as soon after the receipt hereof as possible you send one of our sloops under the command of a prudent and intelligent person to reconnoitre and examine the whole coast round that island, but more particularly the east side. St. Mary's and Foul Point, and to obtain the fullest information of the force which the French have there, the establishments they may have formed, and a minute account of their proceedings. And as by this conveyance similar directions are given to Bombay to send a vessel for the like purposes from thence, you are to give the commander the proper instructions for his returning to you to communicate the result of his enquiries in the most expeditious manner, that we may be informed thereof either directly from you or from Bombay by an overland conveyance, if the importance of the intelligence may make a communication thereof by that channel necessary.

27. We are advised of the *Lapwing* snow's arrival at Atchin Head the 26th November last and her proceeding thence for Bengal the 2d December following. Our letter dated the 30th June by that vessel acquainted you with our determination on the subject of remittances to be made through our cash. And being resolved to abide by the terms and conditions then established for the receipt of money for bills of exchange to be drawn upon us until our further pleasure shall be signified to you thereupon, it is for the present material only to observe, in reply to that part of your letter of the 23d November last by the *Hampshire* which acquaints us with your intention of drawing bills on the terms and rates therein mentioned, that you have contrary to our repeated and standing orders infringed the power we have ever reserved to ourselves, of fixing on the terms for indulging individuals with drafts on our treasury here, and therefore do hereby positively forbid you to invade that right, which we are resolved to maintain in our own hands, declaring we shall deem you responsible for a breach of this order, unless you shall, under the last necessity, be fully justified in deviating therefrom.

28. Upon the information received that the late Mrs. Hunt, the widow of Major Hunt, by her last will, proved in the Mayor's Court of Calcutta, has bequeathed her estate of considerable value to Charles Palmer, an orphan, during his natural life, and in case of his death to the poor of the island St. Helena, we recommend it to you to take the proper measures for securing

the disposal of that legacy according to the will of the testatrix, and engaging the executors, so far as in you lies, to deposit the amount in our treasury for notes bearing interest at 8 per cent per annum, which you are to grant upon receiving it into our cash.

29. Having permitted Mr. Hawke to proceed to the East Indies, he takes his passage accordingly in the *Dolphin*, and is to continue there until you shall receive directions for his appointment to an employ on our civil establishment, which we shall give by a future ship of this season, as a mark of our grateful sentiments and acknowledgement of the eminent services rendered to the public by his father, Sir Edward Hawke.<sup>7</sup>

30. Notwithstanding we have a high opinion of the merits of Mr. Henry Guinand who proceeded to Bengal as Superintendent of the Investment of Piece Goods under your Presidency, and have great dependance on profiting from his abilities in that branch, yet we must not omit strongly to recommend it to you to be very attentive to his strict performance of his duty therein, as we are, to our great concern, entirely convinced from the indifference of the goods lately received that his utmost attention will be required, by an amendment of the several articles, to remove the loud complaints now made by the buyers of the bad quality of them.

31. His Majesty having approved of the report of the Lords of His Privy Council and their sentence therein mentioned, whereby the judgement given by you for removing Mr. William Bolts from the office of one of the Aldermen of the Mayor's Court of Calcutta is reversed, and he is restored to his said office pursuant to his petition of appeal to His Majesty, and we having in consequence of the said sentence of reversal signified to him our expectation that he repair to Calcutta in one of the Company's ships of the ensuing season in order to resume the functions of his said office, you must acquaint Mr. Lawrell, who was appointed to fill up Mr. Bolts's vacancy as an Alderman, that he must relinquish that office, and is no longer to act in that capacity after the receipt of your notice.

32. As Mr. Bolts hath instituted suits at law against the Company's servants it is absolutely necessary for their defence that you send the following particulars, first taking three copies thereof duly attested to be disposed of as hereafter mentioned, *vizt.* Mr. Bolts's original letters to the Governor and Council and Select Committee from 1764 to his departure from Bengal: his original petitions, protests and remonstrances; his original letters to Messrs. Becher and Alexander if they can be procured: also those to Mr. Droz or any of the Company's servants; Brigadier General Smith's original letters concerning Mr. Bolts; the original intercepted letter, Mr. Bolts to Mr. Gentil; his original information and petition to the jurors on 27th May, 1768, and Mahomed Reza Cawn's letter mentioned in Consultations 15th August, 1768; or any other original papers that have passed relative to Mr. Bolts. These originals are to be transmitted by the first ship; and two setts of the said copies must also be sent by two different ships, each sett of copies to be examined with the originals by the commander, and chief and second mates, of the respective ships on which such copies are sent that they may be able to give evidence thereon; and it is also necessary that the Company's seal be affixed to all such copies as shall come through your hands, and

that of the Mayor's Court to those from that court; and the other authentic copy of the whole duly attested must be kept amongst your records.

33. His Majesty having been most graciously pleased to confer the dignity of Knights of the most Honorable Order of the Bath on Sir John Lindsay and Major General Eyre Coote, the insignia of that Order are transmitted on the *Dolphin* frigate with His Majesty's letter to the Nabob of Arcot and instructions for His Excellency's investing the Knights with that Order. Captain Cope also proceeds on the said ship with the necessary instructions to assist the Nabob in the performance of the proper ceremonies on this occasion.

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Colbrooke/J. Purling/Thos. Rous /  
Wm. James / Chas. Chambers, Junr. /  
Pet. Lascelles / John Roberts / Hy.  
Crabb Boulton / Wm. Devaynes / Ben.  
Booth / Daniel Wier / Edwd. Wheler /  
Jno. Michie / W. Cruttenden / Geo.  
Dudley / John Harrison / Jn. Wood-  
house/George Cuming/Heny. Savage/  
J. Hurlock.

London,  
27th June 1770.

7

PUBLIC LETTER DATED 4 JANUARY 1771

*Shipping and investment: list of ships commissioned for the season; articles intended for export to India and China for the year; instructions relating to supply of investment from the various settlements—despatch of machinery and tools required by the filatures—measures to encourage export of silver to Bengal—clive's fund for relief of soldiers—uncertain political situation in Europe: warning to be on guard and to take defensive measures.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. By His Majesty's frigate the *Dolphin*, which sailed from Spithead the 5th August, we wrote to you under date of the 27th June, duplicate whereof accompanies this, as doth the copy of our General Letter of the 23rd March.

2. Since the dispatch of the *Dolphin* the following advices from your Presidency have been received, vizt.,

Additional General letter	dated 16th December, 1769	Received per <i>Lioness</i>	13 July 1770
Letters from the Select Committee	16 and 17 -do-	-do-	-do-
General Letter	20 and postscript of 26th	<i>Royal Charlotte</i>	12 -do-
-do-	3 January 1770	per	-do-
-do-	25 -do-	per <i>Duke of Grafton</i>	2nd August
-do- from the Secret Department.	31 -do-	-do-	-do-
Letter from the Select Committee	4 February	-do-	-do-
General Letter	13 -do-	per <i>Anson</i>	13 October
Letter from the Select Committee	17 -do-	-do-	-do-
-do-	18 March	Received via Lisbon	26th November per Danish [ship]

3. In order to bring home the large investment which we have reason to expect our servants in the East Indies and China have provided in compliance with our repeated and earnest directions for that purpose, we have taken up twenty-nine ships to proceed thither this ensuing season on the same terms as those of last year. Their names, commanders and consignments are as follow, vizt.,

Ships	Commanders	Consignments
<i>Duke of Richmond</i>	Thomas Hindman . . .	St. Helena, Bencoolen, and China
<i>Queen</i> . . . . .	George Stainforth Junr.	Madeira Coast and China
<i>Sea Horse</i> . . . .	Edward Dampier . . .	Bencoolen and China
<i>Thames</i> . . . . .	Daniel Clarke . . .	
<i>Calcutta</i> . . . . .	William Thomson . .	St. Helena and China
<i>Pacifick</i> . . . . .	Charles Barkley . . .	
<i>York</i> . . . . .	George Hayter . . .	
<i>Grosvenor</i> . . . .	David Saunders . . .	
<i>Horsendon</i> . . . .	Alexander Jameson .	Coast and China
<i>Talbot</i> . . . . .	Sir Charles Hudson Bart.	
<i>Ankerwyke</i> . . . .	William Bassett . . .	
<i>Salisbury</i> . . . .	Philip Bromfield . .	
<i>Glatton</i> . . . . .	Richard Doveton . .	
<i>Cruttenden</i> . . . .	William Baker . . .	China
<i>Grenville</i> . . . . .	Burnet Abercrombie .	

Ships	Commanders	Consignments
<i>Asia</i> . . . . .	Robert Preston . . . . .	Madeira, Coast and Bay
<i>Colebrooke</i> . . . . .	Arthur Morris . . . . .	
<i>New Ship</i> . . . . .	Fasham Nairn . . . . .	
<i>Ponsborne</i> . . . . .	Samuel Hough . . . . .	
<i>Speke</i> . . . . .	Jeffery Jackson . . . . .	
<i>Rochford</i> . . . . .	William Hunt . . . . .	Madeira and Bombay
<i>Lord North</i> . . . . .	William Hambly . . . . .	
<i>Deptford</i> . . . . .	William Tryon . . . . .	
<i>Clive</i> . . . . .	John Allen . . . . .	Bombay
<i>London</i> . . . . .	John Webb . . . . .	
<i>Dutton</i> . . . . .	Henry Rice . . . . .	
<i>Godfrey</i> . . . . .	Francis Reed . . . . .	Bombay and Mocha Bombay and China
<i>Hampshire</i> . . . . .	John Smith . . . . .	
<i>Shrewsbury</i> . . . . .	Benjamin Jones . . . . .	

4. We send, as usual, lists of the arrival and departure of our shipping since the advices by the *Lord Mansfield*.

5. You will receive this letter by the ships *Asia* and *Ponsborne*, the triplicate whereof will be sent by a future conveyance. The *Asia* is ordered to call at Madeira to take in 50 pipes of wine for our Presidency of Fort St. George. Our correspondents there will furnish you with the necessary vouchers for the 150 pipes to be sent you, and you are to govern yourselves agreeable to our former orders respecting the distribution and advising of the quality and leakage of the wines which will be consigned to you this season. You are also to send the usual supply of five pipes for the use of our servants at Fort Marlborough, and for the remainder of these ships' cargoes, you are referred to the invoices and bills of lading enclosed in each ship's packet.

6. The principal articles of our intended export to the several parts of India and China the ensuing season will consist of the following particulars, *vizt.*—

*For the Presidency of Bengal*

Cloth 1161 bales, long ells 106 bales, and 30 bales of broad long ells of ten pieces each; copper 145 tons; lead 136 tons; iron 70 tons; gun-powder 1,270 barrels.

*For the Presidency of Fort St. George*

Long ells 20 bales; copper 100 tons; lead 95 tons; iron 50 tons; gun-powder 1,000 barrels of 60 lb. weight each.

*For the Presidency of Bombay*

For the Bombay market: cloth 992 bales; long ells 184 bales; carpetting 20 bales; copper 255 tons; lead 186 tons; iron 60 tons; steel 25 tons.

For the Bussora market: cloth 506 bales, and 149 bales of long ells of ten pieces each.



*For Fort Marlborough*

Treasure 10 chests ; iron 20 tons.

*For China*

Treasure 300 chests ; cloth 1393 bales ; long ells 1,000 bales ; camblets 600 pieces ; *hairbines* 200 pieces ; lead 2260 tons.

7. Besides the abovementioned principal exports, we shall send considerable quantities of stores of various kinds as nearly equal to your indents as we think necessary, of which a particular account will appear in the respective ship's invoices, to which you are referred.

8. We have been obliged to lade 280 barrels of the gunpowder designed for your Presidency on the ships bound to Fort St. George and China, and 220 barrels on the Bombay ships, which our Presidents and Councils are directed to forward to you by the first safe conveyances after their receipt.

9. As our Presidency of Fort Marlborough will stand in need of many articles which we cannot send them from hence, we direct that you comply with their indents to the utmost of your ability.

10. The medicines and drugs provided for your Presidency this season are supplied by the apothecaries company Mr. Hannay and Mr. Bevan and Son, who are directed to distinguish their respective packages that in case the articles are not of the best quality we may know of whom to demand the loss.

11. By the foregoing list you will observe that we have consigned seven ships to be returned with cargos from the Coast and Bay including the reserve for half a cargo from Bencoolen as hereafter mentioned. We doubt not, therefore, of your convincing us of your attachment to our interest by giving them as full loadings as possible ; and in case of your ability to provide surplus tonnage let the same be duly proportioned.

12. But should the treasuries of Bengal and Fort St. George admit of a provision of goods more than sufficient to give full loadings for the before-mentioned six ships and half, you are to inform our President and Council of Bombay thereof that they may send round to you or to Fort St. George, as shall be concerted between you, a ship or ships for that purpose.

13. We have destined the *Hampshire* and *Shrewsbury* to be sent in the proper season from Bombay to Mocha and China, whereof it is necessary you should be advised that you may give every assistance in furnishing those ships with suitable cargos ; and in case any accident should befall either of them we shall order one or two others to be sent to China and Mocha in their room. The gentlemen we have appointed supracargos of the *Hampshire* for Mocha are Messrs. Edward Ironside, John Harvey and Captain John Smith.

14. As we have ordered our Governor and Council at Fort Marlborough to lade on the three ships consigned thither in their way to China all the black pepper they could collect in time, so have we further ordered our said servants to reserve all the white pepper they can procure together with such a quantity of the black sort as shall be sufficient for half a cargo of a ship, which they are

advised would be directed to call there from the Coast and Bay. You are therefore hereby directed to concert with our servants upon the Coast how to send so soon as possible one of the seven Coast and Bay ships beforementioned after lading about half a cargo of piece goods and reserving room for the remainder of her cargo of pepper for Europe from Bencoolen, whence she is to be finally dispatched.

15. The gentlemen we have appointed to be Council at Canton to provide returning cargos for the fifteen ships ordered from hence this season and the *Northumberland* expected there from Bombay are Messrs. Alexander Hume, Edward Phipps, Francis Wood, William Rous, John Walton, Thomas Bevan, William Harrison, Matthew Raper, John Bradly Blake, James Bradshaw and William Henry Pigou; and all those gentlemen except Mr. Walton are appointed Residents for 1772.

16. To provide cargos for so large a number of ships expected from China in the season of 1771 we have formed the following calculate:—

Supposed balance of 1770 remaining in China . . . . .	£100,000
Woollen goods and lead from hence this year . . . . .	174,500
<i>Northumberland</i> from Bombay . . . . .	40,000
Pepper from the West Coast . . . . .	36,000
Indian goods from Madrass . . . . .	50,000
Bills drawn on us by the supracargos as by last ships . . . . .	87,500
Silver from hence . . . . .	300,000
	<hr/>
	788,000
	<hr/>

17. By the foregoing estimate it appears that there will be a balance in the Residents' hands of near £150,000, supposing they load on each ship to the amount of £40,000, notwithstanding which we should esteem it an essential service if you could increase the value of Indian products from your Presidency, or assist our Residents at Canton with specie for bills drawn on us upon the terms hereafter mentioned. However, we doubt not but your zeal, even supposing a failure of resources for the present year, will suggest some expedient for assisting this valuable branch of our commerce in future.

18. Although we have calculated only £87,500 as the amount of cash expected to be paid in at Canton for bills to be drawn on us, yet we cannot but hope it will much exceed that sum, as we have permitted our China Council to draw on us to the amount of £200,000 at the advanced rate of 5s. 6d. the weighty dollar payable at 365 days sight without interest, estimating the high rate of exchange as an equivalent in lieu of interest.

19. Mr. Wiss one of the Superintendents of your Raw Silk Investment, having ordered last year a considerable quantity of reels, wheels and other implements to be made at Novi for the use of the filatures, and as they could not be executed in time to be sent on the ships of that season, they are now shipped on the *Ponsborne* in twelve cases, and on their arrival must be sent to Mr. Wiss, whose filatures are supposed to be in greater forwardness than those of the other gentlemen, as well from his having left England before them as

from his having more assistants with him. Mr. Wiss must properly assort and arrange the said implements as they are not supposed to be packed in setts. He has our permission to retain one half of the whole, and the remainder are to be sent in equal proportions to Messrs. Aubert and Robinson.

20. There will also be sent on some of the ships of this season several articles for the use of the filatures which were ordered last season and not compleated in time ; also sundry other articles deemed necessary for that purpose which are on their receipt to be divided in equal proportions between Messrs. Wiss, Aubert and Robinson.

21. You are hereby directed to provide two thousand five hundred tons of saltpetre as part of the tonnage to be returned on the ships now going out. You will therefore concert with the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay to send thither such proportions as they may want to compleat the loadings they shall have to send to Europe.

22. We have lately appointed twenty writers for the service of your Presidency, who will proceed upon the ships of this season. Their names and rank will be hereafter advised, excepting the names of those who take passage by these ships, which will appear by the lists of passengers in their respective packets.

23. As Mr. John Perring, appointed one of the writers for your Presidency, resides at present at Fort St. George as a free merchant, we have directed our President and Council there to acquaint him of his appointment and to require him to proceed to his station by the earliest opportunity.

24. Your granting only one sett of certificates to each of the Captains, Smith of the *Hampshire* and Samson of the *Duke of Grafton* for the amount of their own and officers' indulgence was very irregular and attended with inconvenience. We therefore direct that in future you grant a separate sett of certificates to each officer for the amount he shall pay in on account of his indulgence ; and in case the officers do not pay in the whole of their allowance you may add the deficiency to the commanders' proportion should they request it.

25. We must also point out another omission of which you have been guilty, namely, in not advising us of the certificates granted to Captains Sir Charles Hudson Bart., Samson, and Lennox by the ships *Talbot*, *Duke of Grafton* and *Anson* ; for although you received the amount after those ships' dispatches were closed, yet your Secretary might have advised thereof in a letter to our Secretary.

26. With a view to promote the exportation of foreign silver to our Indian settlements, we have thought proper not only to remit the duty usually paid to the Company by those who export silver to their friends in India, but are also come to a resolution to receive all monies here for our bills on your Presidency at the rate of 2s. 2½d. the current rupee instead of 2s. as advised to you in our letter of the 11th November 1768, paragraph 115.

27. An agreement having been entered into by the Company and the Right Honorable Robert Lord Clive respecting the institution of a fund for

the relief and maintenance of European officers and soldiers<sup>1</sup> who shall become invalids or superannuated in the Company's service and of their widows and the widows of such as shall die in the service, we herewith transmit to you printed copies of the deed of covenants relative to this fund, and likewise copies of the regulations we have established for carrying it into immediate and effectual execution. And as the deed and regulations circumstantially set forth the nature and extent of the Military Fund, we refer you to them for every necessary information.

28. The singular advantages which this generous institution offers to the military in the Company's service being the more likely to subject it to abuse, it is requisite that the utmost caution as well as impartiality be observed by the respective commanding officers in granting certificates, and by the Governor and Council of our several Presidencies in authenticating the same by their approval. This, we hope and trust, will be duly attended to on your part, and we enjoin you to recommend it to every commanding officer on your establishment not to grant a certificate which may entitle any person to be admitted a pensioner on this fund without the fullest evidence of such person being actually an invalid and incapable of further service in India, and this must be certified to the commanding officers under the hand of the surgeon of the regiment or at least one of the army surgeons. And the greatest circumspection must be observed in all cases where the reality of the cause alleged for the application for a certificate is not apparent or easily ascertained. And you are to direct that in every certificate which may be granted to a non-commissioned officer or private soldier the place of birth, the age, stature and other descriptive marks be inserted, the better to defeat any attempts at imposition by persons into whose hands such vouchers may fall.

29. Several soldiers having applied for the benefit of this charity without any other plea than their being provided with certificates of their having been discharged the Company's service at their own request after serving their contracted time of five years, it will be highly necessary, in order to prevent any of the Company's military continuing in an error that would naturally tend to the injury of the service as well as to their own disappointment and detriment, that they be made acquainted with the conditions of the covenant as well as with the general regulations which have been established for transacting the business thereof, and that they be given clearly to understand that though this laudable charity has been instituted for the maintenance and benefit of such as are truly objects of it, yet it is by no means intended to be employed towards the support of such men as may be capable of further duty ; consequently none must propose to themselves or expect any advantage by returning home unqualified for pensioners, or otherwise unentitled to any relief from it.

30. We observe by your Consultations of 26 December 1769 that you have cancelled the bonds standing in the name of the Right Honorable Robert Lord Clive for the sums paid into your treasury on account of the Military Fund, and have granted new bonds to our President and Council as trustees for this fund, with interest for periods different from what you will find specified and settled in the deed of covenants beforementioned. It is therefore necessary you should rectify such error by a transfer of the latter account to the former, and then carrying the amount of the several sums which constitute





Lord Clive receiving a sum of money from the Nawab of Bengal,  
for the fund for disabled officers and soldiers





this fund to a distinct head on your books in conformity to the express conditions of the said deed.

31. By this agreement you will perceive that the interest of the original fund of 8 lacks of *sicca* rupees from September 1766 to September 1769 is become a new capital for such contingent purposes as are not provided for by the deed, and accordingly you will add in a separate article the said interest only to the original fund whereby the state of this transaction may appear regular and conspicuous on the books of your Presidency.

32. You will also take notice that the principal fund of 8 lacks of *sicca* rupees and the contingent capital arising from the interest of the said 8 lacks from September 1766 to September 1769 are, from the last period, to remain as an inactive part of your stock bearing no interest on your books as the same is to be paid by us in England.

33. Great naval preparations are making in this kingdom with all possible expedition, and as the cause will be best explained by His Majesty's speech at the opening of the present session of Parliament, we herewith transmit the same to you. You will thereby perceive that the state of public affairs is at this time extremely critical, and it is therefore absolutely necessary for you to be well on your guard against any surprize, and to make such preparations for your defence against any European enemy as the precarious situation of affairs may render expedient.

34. In the former part of this letter we directed you to concert with our Presidency of Fort St. George concerning a ship to be sent half laden to the West Coast to compleat her cargo with pepper, but having since found it expedient to take up the ship *Pigot* Captain George Richardson for St. Helena and Bencoolen, you are therefore not to send either of the Coast and Bay ships to Bencoolen for the purpose before directed, as the *Pigot* will take in such pepper as our servants on the West Coast may be enabled to lade on her.

35. By means of this alteration it is become necessary for you to provide half a cargo more for the Coast and Bay ships than was at first intended, and we trust you will exert yourselves to the utmost to supply the deficiency which may otherwise happen in the cargoes of the ships to be returned to us.

36. We have drawn upon you the following sets of bills of exchange at 2s. 2½d. the rupee and 30 days sight, *vizt.*

One set for rupees 10,867-15-0 payable to ~		
Mr. Charles Fleetwood for pounds sterling £1,200 received of Mr. John Wells dated 24 October, 1770 . . . . .	Rupees 10,867-15- 0	£1,200.0
One set for rupees 1,358-7-10 payable to ~		
Miss Eliza Blackerie for pounds sterling £150 received of herself dated 14 December 1770 . . . . .	1,358- 7-10	£150.0
One set for rupees 452-13-4 payable to ~		
Mr. Samuel Dyer for pounds sterling £50 received of Mr. William Dyer dated 18 December 1770 . . . . .	452-13- 4	£50.0

One set for rupees 452-13-4 payable to		
Mr. John Bristow for pounds sterling	452-13- 4	£50.0
£50 received of Mark Cramer Esqr.		
dated 24 December 1770 . . . . .		
		<hr/> £1,450.0

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Colebrooke/J. Purling/Thos. Rous/  
Hy. Crabb Boulton / Geo. Dudley /  
Fredk. Pigou / John Harrison / Henry  
Savage / Ben. Booth / Ja. Cockburn /  
Chas. Chambers Junr. / J. Hurlock /  
Wm. James / Jno. Michie / Pet. Las-  
celles / John Roberts.

London,  
4 January 1771.  
(Per Rochford.)

## 8

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1771

*Tension eased and amicable relations renewed between Spain and Great Britain—hostile preparations of the French at Mauritius and instructions to take precautionary measures.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. In our letter of the 4th January last, we apprized you of the grounds we then had to fear an approaching rupture between the Crowns of Great Britain and Spain; but we have now the pleasure to acquaint you that a declaration has lately been made on the part of His Catholick Majesty and accepted by the Court of England which has removed our apprehensions of such an event. Of this you will be more fully informed by the *London Gazette* which is herewith transmitted to you. . . . .

2. But though the renewal of amity with the Court of Spain has relieved us in this particular, yet as the measures of the French in collecting so great a force at the Islands cannot but alarm us with fears of their having hostile intentions against our settlements, we must repeat our injunctions to you that

you will use every precaution and exert every means in your power to frustrate any design they may form against our possessions.

We are,

Your loving friends,

London, the 1st February, 1771.

(Per *Talbot*

„ *Horsendon*

„ *Lord North*)

G. Colebrooke / J. Purling / Geo. Dudley / Thos. Rous / Hy. Crabb Boulton / John Harrison / Fredk. Pigou / Heny. Savage / E. H. Cruttenden / John Roberts / Ben. Booth / Pet. Lascelles / Jno. Woodhouse / Chas. Chambers Junr. / George Cuming / John Michie / Wm. James / Wm. Devaynes / Edward Wheeler / J. Hurlock / Jas. Cockburn.

9

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1771

*A squadron of the King's navy under Admiral Harland sent to assist the Company—instructions regulating relations with the Admiral.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. His Majesty from a tender regard to the interest and welfare of the Company having been most graciously pleased to order a squadron of his ships to proceed to the East Indies to protect the Company in their possessions and commerce and to support their just rights and privileges, we hereby inform you that the said squadron is composed of the following ships under the command of Sir Robert Harland Bart., Rear Admiral of the Blue, *vizt.*—

Rate <sup>1</sup>	Ships	Guns	Men	Captains
3	<i>Northumberland</i>	70	520	John Symonds
...	<i>Oxford</i>	70	520	Thomas Taylor
...	<i>Buckingham</i>	70	520	Isaac Florimond Ourry
4	<i>Warwick</i>	50	350	Charles Leslye

2. As we have not found it requisite for us to grant to Rear Admiral Harland a commission as Commander in Chief of the Company's marine forces we have only to apprise you in what cases, and how far, it may be proper for you to give him authority over any of our armed vessels.

3. In all expeditions wherein the co-operation of our naval force shall be necessary, you are to put under Admiral Harland's command such of our ships, frigates and armed vessels, as the nature of the service may require; and during such expeditions, it must be submitted to the Admiral's judgment

to act therein according to circumstances and the particular exigency of the Company's affairs.

4. We must, however, observe, that the powers thus delegated by us to Admiral Harland are not meant to extend over any other of the Company's marine forces than what shall be put under his command as beforementioned, excepting only such of our armed vessels as he may meet at sea and shall judge necessary to detain for the good of the service, whose commanders, notwithstanding any orders they may be under from our servants, are to conform to those the Admiral may think proper to give them for the better executing any service in which he may be then engaged.

5. We enjoin you to give Rear Admiral Harland the utmost assistance and your best advice to enable him to carry the intentions of His Majesty into effectual execution in such manner as shall be most conducive to the honor of the nation and the interests of the Company. And whenever any marine operations and expeditions are to be deliberated upon, we direct that (in the absence of the Commissioners) our President and Council or our Select Committee do desire the advice and assistance of the Admiral, and that they concert with him such measures as may be expedient for effecting any maritime plan or purpose.

6. On the arrival of Rear Admiral Harland at your Presidency, you must not fail to pay the honors due to His Majesty's flag and to salute him with 15 guns, on which we cannot doubt but you will receive the proper and usual return.

7. As we have the highest sense of Admiral Harland's abilities as a naval commander and assure ourselves of his exerting them to the benefit of the Company as well as of the public service, you must not fail to shew him every mark of respect due to his rank and merit.

8. We also require you to treat with civility and regard the several commanders of His Majesty's ships, and we expect you in all your proceedings to cultivate with His Majesty's officers in general that harmony and concord which is so essentially necessary for the good of the common cause.

9. It is our pleasure that Admiral Harland be provided with a house or commodious apartments for his residence whilst at your Presidency, and that he be allowed after the rate of forty shillings a day, of which we desire his acceptance, to defray the expense of keeping a table for himself and such officers as he shall think proper, which allowance is to commence upon his arrival at Madras and to continue during his stay in India, and is to be in full consideration of all allowances whatsoever.

10. With respect to any allowance to the other commanders of His Majesty's ships, the rules which were observed by you towards the naval officers of different ranks in the late war are now to be your guide.

11. Should any of His Majesty's ships be in want of stores, provisions and necessaries, you are hereby directed to furnish the commanders with such sums of money for the purchase thereof as they shall desire of you on that account, taking four bills of exchange of the same tenor on the proper officers in England for the amount which you may so advance, drawn at the



current exchange payable to the Court of Directors at 30 days sight ; and you must not omit to send three of such bills of exchange by different conveyances.

12. In case you may be under a necessity of having current accounts relative to His Majesty's ships we positively direct you to adjust the same with the proper officers as soon as possible, and take bills for the balances which shall be due to us on such accounts ; or, if bills cannot be obtained, you must take care that the accounts be so authentically certified by the commanders or proper officers that we may not for want of sufficient vouchers be subject to such difficulties and ineffectual applications for recovering the respective balances as we have experienced on former occasions.

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Colebrooke / J. Purling / Hy. Crabb  
Boulton / Geo. Dudley / Thos. Rous /  
John Harrison / Fredk. Pigou / J. Man-  
ship / Ja. Cockburn / Ben. Booth / W.  
Devaynes / John Roberts / J. Hurlock /  
Wm. James / Pet. Lascelles / George  
Cuming / W. Cruttenden / Jno. Michie /  
Daniel Wier / Chas. Chambers Junr. /  
Edwd. Wheler / Robt. Gregory.

London  
8th March 1771.  
(Per *Rochford*.)

10

PUBLIC LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1771

*Shipping news and instructions—iron goods and other articles for making docks at the Presidency—service matters.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We have already written to you this season under date of the 4th January last by the ships *Asia* and *Ponsborne*, which sailed on their voyages the 15th following, the triplicate of which letter will be sent by the *Rochford*, and a short letter of the 1st February by the way of Fort St. George per *Talbot*, duplicate and triplicate whereof are in the *Rochford* and *Lord North's* packets. We have also written a short letter under the 8th instant by His Majesty's ship *Northumberland* ; the duplicate and triplicate are sent on the *Lord North* and *Rochford*.

2. Upon the 15th January we received overland your Select Committee's letter of the 9th May last.

3. Enclosed you will receive lists of the departure of our ships since the sailing of the *Asia* and *Ponsborne*, also of the passengers on board these ships the *Rochford*, *Lord North* and *Speke*.

4. We also refer you to these ships invoices and bills of lading for the particulars of their cargoes.

5. The *Speke* is consigned first to Madeira to take in fifty pipes of wine, and the remaining one hundred pipes will be laden on the *Lord Holland* and *Colebrooke*. Our correspondents there will furnish you with the necessary papers and you must conform to our former orders as to their disposal.

6. You must comply with the indents of our servants at St. Helena for what Madeira wine they shall want, which must be invoiced at prime cost without adding thirty per cent thereon as you did on the former consignment of that article.

7. Captain John Smith having resigned the command of the ship *Hampshire* and being succeeded therein by Captain Thomas Taylor, we have made the following alterations in the destination of our ships vizt., the *Shrewsbury* Captain Jones is to be sent to Mocha; the *London* Captain Webb is to proceed from Bombay to China; and the *Clive* Captain Allen is to be consigned from Bombay to your Presidency with a cargo of cotton, provided she can be sent round in time to save her passage home the same season of her arrival, from whence you are to return her to Europe, or send her back to Bombay with saltpetre, as you shall think is most for the interest of the Company, and if returned to Bombay she is to be dispatched home from thence.

8. Should either the *Shrewsbury* or *London* be prevented by any unforeseen event from proceeding on her destined voyage, the *Clive* is to supply her place.

9. And should the *Clive* be disabled from going to Bengal, or another ship be wanted to be sent thither besides the *Clive*, the *Deptford* is to be the next ship in turn for the Bengal voyage. The *Hampshire* Captain Thomas Taylor is consigned directly to Bombay.

10. We send on the ships of this season two mooring chains of seven fathoms, two of eight, two of nine, and two of ten fathoms with swivel at the end of every six or seven feet, agreeable to the recommendation of your late Master Attendant, Mr. Page Keeble, and we intend to send the like number annually.

11. As a confirmation of the good opinion of the utility of making docks at your Presidency, we have permitted the attornies of Colonel Campbell and Mr. Watson to send on the ships of this season about 105 tons of iron work and other necessaries for carrying their plan into execution for which they have paid freight here, and we direct that you furnish them with ten tons of sheet copper and twenty tons of bar iron upon their application and on their paying for the same at the invoice price.

12. We have also permitted the attornies of Messrs. Campbell and Watson to send on the *Rochford* Humphrey Davis as Master Shipwright and his son William Boddicott Davis as his Assistant for their service free of charge to the Company.

13. You must send to St. Helena on every ship you dispatch next season five hundred strong *gunnies* for the purpose of making sand bags, being esteemed better than any thing we can send from hence for that service.

14. Having received very extraordinary accounts of the efficacy of a medicine for the cure of the dysentery and all inward bleedings which accounts being supported by the testimony of several persons of consequence who have experienced its salutary effects in the West Indies and other parts of the world, we could not hesitate about giving this medicine a tryal in hopes of its preventing the loss of many persons in India, where such numbers are carried off by that dreadful disorder. It is with this view we have sent in the *Rochford's* packet some bottles of this medicine with directions enclosed in a box; and it is particularly recommended that the surgeons of your Presidency be strictly enjoined to give this medicine a fair trial and to report the result thereof.

15. We have appointed Mr. Thomas Call to be a practitioner engineer with the rank of ensign at your Presidency, but permitted him to proceed first to Fort St. George on the *Lord North* to assist in finishing the survey of the *jaghire* lands granted to the Company by the Nabob of Arcot. Mr. Call's pay and rank are to commence from the time of his arrival at Fort St. George, and we have directed our President and Council to advise you to what time he shall have been paid.

16. Mr. Thomas Ford, whom we appointed a cadet for your Presidency last season, having been left sick at Madeira and thereby obliged to come back to England, has our permission to return to his station without prejudice to his rank which is next below Mr. Thomas Jones.

17. We have also appointed Mr. William Foster, who went to India in His Majesty's ship *Dolphin*, to be a cadet at your Presidency; his rank will be advised in the list of cadets, which will be sent by the last ships of this season.

18. Mr. Laurence Orman has since our General Letter of the 23rd March 1770 presented another memorial to us requesting payment of the amount of his budgrow and cargo, pressed by Sir Robert Fletcher at  
 Para. 137. Joanpoor in 1766, to which he has annexed his affidavit as to the truth of his demands with the particulars and amount of the cargo, which we herewith send for your notice; and if it shall appear to you upon a full examination that the articles are fairly charged and no compensation has been made for the same, we then direct that you pay the amount to such person as he shall authorize to receive it.

19. We have drawn upon you the following set of bills of exchange at 2s. 2½d. the rupee and 30 days sight.

One sett for rupees 452-13-4 payable to Mr. Mattw. Gunning for pounds sterling £50 received of the Right Hon'ble Lord Coleraine dated the 7th February, 1771. > Rs. 452-13-4 £50

We are,

Your loving friends,

Wm. James/Ben Booth/John Roberts/  
J. Hurlock/Pet. Lascelles Jno. Michie/  
George Cuming/Wm. Devaynes/Chas.  
Chambers, Junr./G. Colebrooke/J. Pur-  
ling/Geo. Dudley/Thos. Rous/Fredk.  
Pigou/John Harrison/J. Manship/  
Daniel Wier/W. Cruttenden/Edwd.  
Wheler/J. Cockburn.

London,  
22nd March, 1771.  
(Per *Rochford*.)

11

PUBLIC LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1771  
(FROM SECRETARY, COURT OF DIRECTORS)

*Arrival of the Lapwing with packets.*

The Honble the President and Council  
at Fort William in Bengal.

Gentlemen,

I am commanded by the Court of Directors to acquaint you that the *Lapwing* snow arrived off the Lizard the 20th instant, and that the packets containing your advices by that vessel coming to their hands whilst the *Lord North* and *Rochford* were under dispatch, they will in consequence be considered of by the ships to be hereafter consigned to you this season.

The *Lapwing* left the *Dolphin* frigate of war and the Company's ship *Morse* at the Cape of Good Hope the 20th December last, but none of their shipping had to the 6th January 1771 touched at St. Helena since the *Anson's* departure from thence homewards.

I am,

gentlemen,

East India House, London  
22nd March 1771.

Your most obedient humble servant,  
P. Michell Secy.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1771

*Shipping instructions: every ship to have a stock of 35 barrels of gunpowder on board; captains required to register the whole of their private trade; mode of calculating tonnage of cotton—trade and investment; suggestion to open a Residency at Rangpur to develop trade with Assam and Bhutan—measures necessary to check the decline in commerce and improve the condition of the people: change from gumashtah to dadni system of providing investments ordered; establishment of an improved judicial system; stopping issue of dastaks; abolition of all internal chaukies except the nine general ones; opening of trade with Oudh—relations with country powers: disapproval of the financial settlement with the Nawab of Bengal, allowances paid to Muhammad Raza Khan, &c.; Shah Alam to be persuaded to stay in the Company's territory; desirability of obtaining Korah and Allahabad in exchange for Benares and of securing the cession of Chunargarh; Vazir to be persuaded to remove M. Gentil from his service—buildings and fortifications: construction of the new Fort William; maps and charts to be drawn on a uniform scale to facilitate the preparation of a general chart of India—revenue and finance: coinage—abolition of batta; appointment of Supervisors to report on the state of the provinces commended; enquiry ordered into the unadjusted balances of Dacca revenues while under the management of Muhammad Raza Khan—service matters: alarm at the Commissioners not reaching India; new regulations relative to covenants and bonds to be signed by the Company's servants; tax on sale of provisions at army camps not to be levied—accounts: Fort William's conduct in respect of bills on London censured; directions regarding the new mode of keeping accounts—strictures on Council—Select Committee controversies over appointments to the Revenue Councils at Patna and Murshidabad, etc.—appointment of Warren Hastings as Governor.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The ships *Speke*, *Rochford*, and *Lord North* carried our last letter of the 22nd March last.

2. By the ships *Colebrooke* and *Lord Holland* now under dispatch for Madeira, Coast and Bay, we shall give our instructions and remarks upon your several advices received last season in the accustomed manner under the established heads.

*First, of shipping*

3. We have entertained Andrew Stein and Alexander Lassly to be volunteers for your pilot service on the usual terms; and as the former served as gunner of the *Calcutta* last voyage, it is our direction that you employ him in that service according to his abilities.

4. Captain Barnaby Bartlett, who went to Bengal in 1768 with our license to provide for himself in the seafaring way, being well-qualified to succeed as



Deputy Master Attendant at your Presidency, we direct that he be appointed thereto on the first vacancy that shall happen after those persons are provided for who have been already recommended by us to succeed to that employ ; and upon any vacancy of Master Attendant he is to succeed thereto according to his turn.

5. It having appeared that some of our ships in their homeward voyages have returned with an insufficient quantity of gun-powder to the great hazard of our property laden on board such ships, we are resolved for the mutual security of the Company and owners to pursue such measures as may put a stop to an omission from which the most prejudicial consequences may ensue. We therefore hereby positively direct that you inform yourselves in the most certain and precise manner of the quantity and quality of gun-powder on board each ship before her departure homewards from your port, not only by a strict and perfect survey and report to the Board by the proper officers (whom we shall deem personally accountable to us for any neglect of duty in this instance), but also by calling the commanders before the Board that you may know from them the quantity of powder they have remaining for their homeward voyages ; and as no ship ought to be dispatched to us without being furnished with at least 35 barrels of serviceable powder, or being answerable for a deficiency therein, you are hereafter, on finding any ship's powder short of that quantity, to require the commanders to provide themselves with so much as shall be wanting to compleat the abovementioned quantity of 35 barrels, and upon their neglecting or refusing so to do, you are to protest against them for all losses and damages that may ensue therefrom, as we are positively determined to avail ourselves in the most ample manner of the penalties to which they shall render the owners and themselves liable by so notorious an infraction of the charterparty covenants, and you are at all times hereafter to consider and obey this as a standing order.

6. Several of the commanders of our Europe ships, notwithstanding their instructions and our orders to you of the 30th December, 1763, have registered only part of their private trade, and many of them under different frivolous pretexts have illegally disposed of quantities to a very considerable amount in their homeward bound voyages to the great prejudice of the Crown and Company, thereby exposing themselves and owners to very rigid penalties. And we, being now firmly resolved to put a stop to such unlawful and evil practices, do hereby direct that you call upon the commanders and officers of the ships consigned to you to give in full true and perfect registers of their private trade according to the covenants in charterparty, which if they shall neglect or refuse to do or shall break bulk or dispose of any of their private trade in their return homewards, the offenders will experience our severest resentment not only by dismission from the Company's service but suits at law will be instituted against them for recovery of the penalties they will render themselves liable to by such unlawful practices, and we expect that the Custom Master do send the manifest of private trade in each ship's packet upon pain of incurring our displeasure. And we further direct that the Custom Master do call upon every commander before his dispatch for Europe to deliver in his boatswain's book for the Custom Master to see that the same is regularly kept and he is to sign his name thereto.

7. Whenever any of the commanders or officers of our ships want to bring

home rough amethysts or any articles that may be deemed precious stones on account of their private trade adventure, you must acquaint them that we expect the same be duly inserted in your registers of diamonds and such like articles.

8. If the commanders of any of our outward bound ships of this year that may call at your Presidency shall be in want of money for their ship's use in India, you are to advance them such sums as they may want and request for that purpose at the same rate as we have ordered you to receive cash of our covenanted servants for bills on us, paying a strict attention to our former orders to you on this subject communicated in the 11th and 12th paragraphs of our letter of the 7th January, 1767, and the 115 @ 17 [115 to 117] paragraphs of 11th November, 1768. And here it is needful to intimate that we design to charge no more than ten per cent on such advances as shall be made the commanders.

9. Notwithstanding our orders of the 17th March, 1769, for making your Import Warehouse Keeper accountable for the deficiencies in the cargoes of the ships *Lord Camden*, *Britannia* and *Pigot*, yet we find the same practice is continued in the deficiencies by the *Verelst*. We therefore direct that you not only demand but insist upon payment of the same by the Import Warehouse Keeper, as there appears to have been a very great neglect on his part whether the goods were delivered or not, the endorsements on the bills of lading and the accounts of deficiencies being palpable contradictions to each other, which if continued must always make it very difficult to adjust the accounts with the owners here. And you are to signify our displeasure to him for his want of care and attention in this part of his business, and that on any future occasion of this kind he will experience a much severer punishment. And it is our further direction that you do not fail in your next advices to clear up these difficulties by shewing how the mistakes have arisen, and by what ships there were deficiencies of goods according to their accounts, and by which the cargoes were delivered intire according to the endorsements on the bills of lading.

10. The method observed by our servants on the Malabar Coast in calculating the tonnage of cotton sent on our ships from thence at the rate of twelve hundredweight to the ton makes it amount to much less in tonnage than it does when reckoned by measurement; and being of opinion that the latter method is the most equitable, considering also that cotton which is an article of very great bulk in that case is not laden upon the same footing as other goods, the different tonnages which they are reckoned at being nearly equal to the measurement of them, we hereby direct that in future the tonnage of cotton be calculated by measurement reckoning fifty cubical feet to the ton instead of the method hitherto practised of calculating it at twelve hundredweight to the ton.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe or from  
one part of India to another*

11. The quantity of iron we send to your Presidency this season is 70 tons, of which 20 tons are to be sold to Lieutenant Colonel Campbell and Major Watson for carrying on the docks and other works constructing by them; the

remaining 50 tons are for use, as from a want of tonnage on the ships of this season not any is sent for sale.

12. Notwithstanding the pleasing information of Captain Du Gloss having established a foundery for casting brass guns, we have paid a due regard to the recommendation in the 102d paragraph of your letter of the 25th September, 1769, by ordering a supply from hence of brass ordnance of different calibres.

13. We send in the packets the report of assays made at the Tower of the coins received from you in the last season with our Accountant's remarks, to which due attention must be given.

14. And it being essentially necessary we should be acquainted with the price of gold and silver at your Presidency, you must send us at least in duplicate an account of the price current of gold and silver distinguishing the different species of coins and standards.

*Thirdly, of investments*

15. We send you a list of investment to be provided at your Presidency for the ships consigned to the Coast and Bay this season, in which list are contained our remarks and observations on the goods received the last year, for your guidance in the provision of the several articles to which you must give all due attention.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India, transactions with the country  
Governments and European nations*

16. It having been represented to us that the Company may be greatly benefited in the sale of broadcloth, iron, copper, lead, and other European commodities by sending proper persons to reside at Rungpore and to explore the interior parts of Buttan, Assam, and other countrys adjacent to Gaulporah, and as you well know our earnest desire to extend the vend of the staples of this kingdom to as great a degree as possible, we are surprized you have not already made an attempt to carry so desireable an object into execution. You are therefore required to procure the best accounts possible and give us your opinion thereon.

17. On comparing the once flourishing state of the commerce of Bengal with the gradual decline it has undergone for several years past it gives us the greatest concern that so unhappy a change should have happened under our Government and at a time when our influence over the whole country was sufficiently established to enable our servants to remove every visible source of this unnatural decay. Hence we have been led to the most serious enquiry and investigation of the various causes which may have produced such fatal effects; and as in this research there have arisen to our view many evils which must have brought on the present declining state of the country, we shall here point out such remedies as we deem equally necessary and effectual for restoring Bengal to its former vigour and to the full exercise and circulation of that commerce from which the Company as well as the kingdom itself had received such great and manifest advantages.

18. As freedom in trade is necessarily productive of its increase the mode of providing your investments by *gomastahs*, *delols* and *pykars*<sup>1</sup> must be a perpetual bar to that freedom which we are so solicitous to establish. We therefore hereby order and direct that you revert to your former practice of providing investments by contracts with *dadney* merchants. And in the conduct of this measure you must by a general publication of our intentions invite as great a number of merchants to deliver proposals and make your contracts as extensive as possible, being attentive at the same time to the improvement of the several manufactures and taking care that you engage only with merchants of good character and sufficiently valid for the full performance of their contracts.

19. Though by increasing the number of *dadney* merchants the Company's risk in the advances it may be necessary to make will be lessened, you must however require from them a proper and competent security for their engagements as we cannot consider the merchants being bound for each other as sufficient to prevent the losses we may be subject to by the failure of particular persons. It is no less expedient that the *dadney* merchants with whom you may contract be liable and agree to such penalties as have been customary or may be requisite for securing to the Company the full and timely delivery of the goods they shall engage to provide and for preventing any debasement in the quality or deficiency in the measure thereof; and these merchants must also be bound under proper penalties not to purchase or provide for any person or persons whatever such sorts and species of goods and manufactures as they shall contract to supply for your investments.

20. As on the revisal of the ancient mode of providing investments by *dadney* merchants you may not for some time at least be able to procure from them such a quantity of goods as our occasions may require, you are in such case to open your warehouses for ready money purchases of such articles as may be wanted to supply the deficiency of your contracts and may be fit and proper for the Europe market. But as we are apprehensive such purchases may furnish us with goods of the common sortments, only you must be attentive to secure by your contracts as large a provision as possible of the best and approved fabricks. To this injunction we are not only led by present necessity, but we assure ourselves that by such means the manufactures of Bengal will soon be restored to their former degree of fineness and estimation, so that our ships may not as of late be returned to us with depreciated fabricks, some of which have scarce produced their original cost. And in these important objects we hope and trust that your regard for our interests will engage you to pursue such measures as shall be most likely to promote our views and effect our designs for the benefit of the country as well as the Company's commerce.

21. As the aim of our orders for removing from the *aurungs* the Company's *gomastahs* and agents of any denomination is to relieve the weavers and manufacturers who have long groaned under the oppressions of such petty tyrants, we earnestly recommend to you to consider and apply the most effectual means to prevent the *gomastahs* and agents of any persons under our jurisdiction from exercising the like abuses, exactions and extortions as we have reason to fear have been committed by persons under sanction of the Company's name. You are also by maintaining a due execution of justice in



the several courts throughout the provinces to afford the oppressed natives all such relief as may encourage them to pursue with alacrity their several occupations and by convincing them of the benefits of our influence excite them to recompence by their industry the attention of their benefactors.

22. As it is impossible for us to be minutely informed of the regulations established by the constitution of the country for the security of the persons and properties of the native inhabitants, it must therefore rest on your local knowledge to judge of the internal policy and the executive parts of justice defective in any point or too confined to yield that universal relief which we are solicitous to obtain for every individual. In case the means should not be equal to this end you must not fail to employ your influence with the Government to supply all defects and to institute such inferior orders of magistracy as may be wanting for the entire protection of all ranks and degrees of the people.

23. Should the superior courts in the several districts require any reform your own judgment will suggest to you the means and your humanity will excite your efforts for preventing any abuses or negligences in the due course of justice. We must however particularly recommend that all power in the judges of imposing arbitrary fines be immediately abolished; and it will be proper that the *sonnauds* appointing judges for the Mohomedans or Bramins for the Hindoos be registered in form, and that a record be made of the sentences in the Nabob's courts, one copy to be kept in the *cutcherry* and another transmitted to Muxadavad.

24. As it may happen that the processes of the courts while they aim at the remedy of one evil may be productive of another, you must enjoin our servants wherever they shall be stationed to recommend in all matters of property between the natives that they adjust their differences by arbitration instead of legal suits which may involve both parties in trouble and expense; and having reason to apprehend that the abuses of the country courts in requiring the different parties to give security for the payment of *choute*<sup>2</sup> on the adjustment of disputes by arbitration have tended greatly to discourage this mode of deciding differences, you must use your influence with the Government for the abolition of the *choute* exacted by the courts in cases of arbitration.

25. From a conviction that the most effectual means to restore and invigorate the trade of Bengal will be the opening every proper channel for its extension and giving it that general freedom which is so necessary to encourage the industry and attract the attention of the natives, we can no longer permit our servants of any rank or station whatever to enjoy the exclusive privilege of *dustucks*. And here when we speak of *dustucks* you are to understand not only *dustucks* but *rowannahs*, *perwannahs*, orders, letters or any powers or favours which may be conferred and which can in any way yield an influence or superiority or favour of one more than another and this without the least distinction to nation or complexion.

26. It is therefore our pleasure that all *dustucks* be immediately withdrawn and that native merchants as well as Europeans under our protection may have every excitement to extend their views to the increase of that commerce which we have reason to fear has been long languishing under those



discouragements with [which?] the privileges of our servants have enabled them to lay on the general circulation of trade.

27. Persuaded as we are that the internal traffick of Bengal has received further checks from the duties which are levied and the exactions which are imposed at petty *chokees*, we positively direct that no such *chokees* be suffered to continue, on any pretence whatever, to impede the course of commerce from one part of the provinces to another.

28. It is however necessary that the nine general *chokees* which have been established for collecting the duties payable to the *Circar* should remain, and those only; and that a person on the part of the Nabob should reside at each *chokeey* to receive the usual and established tolls; and that one or more of our civil servants on behalf of the Company as *Duans* should be stationed at each *chokeey* to superintend the receipts, keep proper registers of all collections, and take care that no impositions or irregularities be committed.

29. And you are to give the most peremptory and positive orders for their sending to the Presidency monthly accounts of the collections minutely specifying the names of the several persons who may pay the duties, the number of boats, the quality and quantity of the goods, the name of the person to whom such goods belong, the day of payment and the time such cargoes are detained and when dispatched, with a full and ample state of all transactions whatever. These accounts are to be transmitted within ten days after the expiration of each month to the Board of Revenue, who are to superintend their conduct, and from time to time give them such directions as they shall think necessary.

30. As we understand that the subjects of other European nations, though they claim a right to *dustucks*, have constantly paid a certain regulated toll at the general *chokees*, the accustomed duties must be collected from them by Government in the manner hitherto practised, for it is our positive injunction that no extraordinary tolls be levied, and no obstructions or unnecessary delays be given to their passage, so that they may not have any just cause to complain of arbitrary proceedings or any undue exercise of our power as *duans*.

31. With respect to the natives and all others under our jurisdiction we further direct that no oppressions or impediments be laid on their traffick up and down the river, but that upon their conforming to ancient customs and paying the established duties the passage of their goods be facilitated by all possible dispatch.

32. Sensible that the abolition of *dustucks* may deprive some of our servants of advantages which they may not have forfeited by any abuse of such privilege, we shall not be inattentive to some proper means of extending our favour to them. We therefore direct that for all duties which may be paid by our servants of the several ranks to which we before allowed the use of *dustucks*, certificates be granted them by the collectors at the established *chokees*, and upon their making affidavit that the goods on which such imposts were levied were on their own account and not directly or indirectly the property of any other person whatever. You are to transmit to us an account for one year of all such certificates, distinguished under the different ranks and denominations of our respective servants, the better to enable us to judge

what gratification it may be proper for us to bestow as an incitement to their diligence and to the faithful discharge of their several duties.

33. Another means to revive the drooping commerce of Bengal is to establish a free intercourse with the more distant provinces and with the territories of Sujah Dowlah, and here we are led to remark that, as by 8th Article of our treaty with that *Soubah* in 1765 it had been stipulated that the Company should have a trade duty free throughout the whole of his dominions, the annulling that article by a general prohibition of any further trade to his country appears to have been equally unadvised and unnecessary. This prohibition is the more extraordinary as we nowhere find that Soujah Dowlah had ever requested you so to do, or even intimated any complaint of the abuse of that article but what was of a private nature and might have been obviated by the authority of our President and Council without having recourse to a remedy so impolitick and pernicious as depriving the Company of the advantages which were to be expected from a free trade to his dominions.

34. The misconduct of our servants in this respect is aggravated by a consequential loss of 20 per cent on the sales of a great part of our exports and so far are they from having any plea of misconstruction of our orders of 17th March, 1766, that they were then expressly directed to make the extension of the sale of woollens and European goods the principal object of the 8th Article of the treaty. We therefore hereby require you to revoke the prohibition which has been issued, and to open and extend to the utmost of your power that commerce to which we were entitled by the stipulation in 1765 and which has been renewed and confirmed to us by the treaty of 1768.

35. Convinced of the benefits which must result both to the Company and the province of Bengal from such intercourse of traffick, it must be your care to avoid giving Soujah Dowlah the least reason to desire the revocation of his grant or a diminution of its effects in any one instance. And while our views herein, no-ways interfere with the orders we have given for restricting the residence of free merchants to the Presidency, we cannot apprehend that any abuse of these privileges of a free trade will prevent the *Soubah* from seconding our designs and affording us an advantage which must tend to his own as well as the Company's interest; and as our purpose may be more easily obtained and better effected by proper regulations, you will recommend to Sujah Dowlah the establishing one *chokeey* on the Carumnassah<sup>3</sup> at the frontier of his territories, and that permits be there granted giving an exemption to all boats passing that *chokeey* into his dominions from any further search, hinderance, or molestation.

36. When we advert to the encomiums you have passed on your own abilities and prudence and on your attention to the Company's interests (in the expostulations you have thought proper to make on our appointment of Commissioners to superintend our general affairs in India) we cannot but observe with astonishment that an event of so much importance as the death of the Nabob Syful Dowlah and the establishment of a successor in so great a degree of nonage should not have been attended with those advantages to the Company which such a circumstance offered to your view.

37. We mean not here to disapprove the preserving the succession in the family of Mir Jaffier; on the contrary both justice and policy recommend

a measure which at once corresponds with the customs and inclinations of the people of Bengal. But when we consider the state of minority of the new *Soubah* we know not on what grounds it could have been thought necessary to continue to him the stipend allotted to his adult predecessors.

38. Convinced as we are that an allowance of sixteen laaks per annum will be sufficient for the support of the Nabob's state and rank while a minor, we must consider every addition thereto as so much to be wasted on a herd of parasites and sycophants who will continually surround him, or at least to be hoarded up, a consequence still more pernicious to the Company. You are therefore during the nonage of the Nabob to reduce his annual stipend to sixteen laaks of rupees; and this we have the greater reason to require as we find ourselves subjected to the payment of large sums due from the revenues of the *Duanny* before the Company became possessed thereof on account of the Navy Donation and the arrears of that to the army, the balance due for restitution to Europeans, Colonel Munro's demand of two laaks,<sup>4</sup> the debt due to Bolackydass, and the annual sum of one laak for ten years which we have agreed to pay to Juggut Seat,<sup>5</sup> all which press on us with such united force that our treasury will be unable to satisfy these several demands without wounding our commercial interests and endangering our possessions in Bengal. Being once relieved from this load of incumbrances, the savings we may expect from this reduction will properly become a fund for military exigencies, which fund, being solely applicable to the defence of the provinces, will contribute no less to the Nabob's future benefit than to that of the Company.

39. At a time when every justifiable measure should be adopted for availing the publick and the Company of all the advantage we had in prospect from our possession of the *Duanny*, we cannot but reflect on the dissipation of a considerable part thereof by the allowances to the Nabob's Ministers.

40. And here we must observe that how great so ever the application of Mahomet Reza Cawn<sup>6</sup> and his adherence to the Company's interests may have been, his rewards have been more than adequate thereto; and, as the business of the collection of our revenues, when they shall have been thoroughly investigated by the Supervizors appointed for that purpose will require little or no assistance from that minister, we must deem the continuance of his present salary as a waste of those resources which are become so essentially necessary both for the security of our possessions and the extension of your investments. It is therefore our pleasure that the annual allowance of nine laaks which he has hitherto enjoyed be no longer continued to him; but, as the minority of the Nabob will make it requisite for you to appoint as his guardian a person of experience in the affairs of government and of approved attachment to the Company's interests, your choice must rest on Mahomet Reza Cawn; and you are to allow him, whilst in that station, a salary of five laaks of rupees per annum, which we consider not only as suitable to such station but as a munificent reward for the services he may render the Company in the execution of his office.

41. The annual allowance of Juggut Seat as assistant to Mahomet Reza Cawn has been a drain on our revenues without the least benefit from his administration, for we are well assured that he has never afforded us a single instance of service; his allowance therefore must be immediately struck off.

But with regard to Roydolub, though we cannot expect any services equal to his present appointment, yet in consideration of the part he has long held in the affairs of government and his advanced age, we are disposed to continue the salary he now enjoys ; but on his death this allowance is not to be given to any person whatsoever.

42. As the reduction of the Nabob's stipend is adventitious and temporary, we by no means intend that the commission of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent granted to our servants on our nett territorial revenues should be increased by this alteration ; and therefore the former stipend of thirty-six laacks must still be deducted from the gross amount of those revenues. In like manner no commission must be drawn on the sums which may be retrenched from the appointments to the Nabob's Ministers.

43. Having already apprized you of the purposes to which we mean to appropriate the savings above mentioned, we have only to direct that when the Navy and Army Donations, the debt due to Bolackidass, and the stipulated payment to Juggut Seat, shall have been wholly satisfied and reimbursed to us out of the aggregate reductions beforementioned, such further sums as shall arise therefrom are to be applied from time to time to clear the balance unpaid to the claimants of the Restitution Fund, and the donation of two laacks to Colonel Munro, in such proportions as the respective claims may bear to each other, until the whole shall be discharged ; but you are to take notice that the principal only of the sums due from the *Circar* are to be considered and allowed in the payments here ordered.

44. The advantages which must accrue to the Company from the residence of the King within our provinces are both in the view of economy and sound policy too obvious to need any illustration. This object therefore exacts your most serious attention and requires every judicious effort which can improve his confidence in our attachment to him and thereby the better engage his compliance with our wishes in this respect.

45. As this point is equally delicate and important we recommend to you to lay hold of the first favourable opportunity which shall offer for an overture to the King on this subject, in which we doubt not but your judgment will suggest to you the expediency of representing all the benefits His Majesty will find from having the forces of the Company nearer his person and ready to unite on any occasion in support of our alliance with him, without being obliged to march through the territories of any one who may be disposed to take advantage of our situation in any accidental circumstance of weakness and distress. To this plea must be added the ill effects of the continued drains of the specie of Bengal on account of his annual tribute, which when carried beyond our possessions must in a great degree be lost to the necessary circulation, and may prevent that punctuality in our remittances which we have hitherto maintained, and may in time wholly incapacitate us from fulfilling the stipulation we are so desirous to preserve inviolate.

46. These and such further arguments as shall appear most conducive to the end will, we hope, prevail on the King to establish his residence at Rajahmaul or Mongheer<sup>7</sup> or such other place within the provinces as may be



thought most proper for the purpose and most likely to preserve to us that influence which is so essential to the Company's welfare.

47. The political interests of the Company make us no less solicitous to obtain from Soujah Dowlah an exchange of the territories of Bulwan Sing for the provinces of Khorah and Allahabad, now held for the King, since by such an exchange our frontiers would be more easily defended, a greater influence would be preserved by us over the neighbouring powers, and we might possibly be relieved from the necessity of keeping up so large and expensive a military establishment as we have at present in Bengal.

48. We are not insensible of the difficulties which may oppose your negotiations on this subject. These however, we persuade ourselves, may in time be overcome by a proper attention on the part of our servants and by their availing themselves of the circumstances which may occur either in the situation, desires, projects, temper, or wants of this prince; and we recommend to you to lay hold of every opportunity which may offer for accomplishing by a friendly negotiation so desireable an end.

49. There is another object of the most essential consequence which calls for the utmost exercise of your abilities, we mean the obtaining from Soujah Dowlah the absolute cession to us of the fort of Chunargur.

50. As we have experienced the strength of this fortress and are sensible of the vast importance the possession of it would be to the Company, you must use your utmost endeavours to acquire by friendly means what could not be retained without violence. We therefore enjoin you not to leave un-essayed any effort which prudence can suggest for obtaining from Soujah Dowlah the cession of Chunargur Fort. But as our view is to acquire it by treaty not by force, and considering also the situation, power and influence of this *Subah*, your negotiations must be conducted with the greatest caution and delicacy, and you must strive by every fair and honourable means to strengthen his friendship and engage his confidence; nevertheless you must not abate of your attention to all his motions, nor forego any opportunity to impress him with an opinion of our activity and power.

51. And here we take occasion to observe that should we at any time obtain from him the cession of this fortress you must not fail to keep in it a strong garrison of Europeans under the command of an able and experienced officer which such possession would enable you to do, since the security which our possessions would thereby receive would admit of a reduction in our other garrisons.

52. Sensible of the difficulties which opposed your endeavours to obtain the removal of Monsieur Gentil<sup>8</sup> from the Court and Councils of Sujah Dowlah, we approve of the delicacy with which you have acted towards the Vizier in your requisitions on this subject. But as we cannot see a person of the abilities of Mr. Gentil (a natural enemy of this nation as well as of the Company) continuing in possession of a power to promote the designs of France and not be alarmed for the consequences of his influence at the *Subah's* court, you must therefore lay hold of the first favourable opportunity to renew your request to Sujah Dowlah to remove Mr. Gentil from his service.

53. From the tenderness and caution observed in your former applications to the Vizier we cannot doubt but that you will conduct yourselves with equal



circumspection in any future occasion, more especially as the other interesting points which you will have to transact with him rend[er] it essentially necessary for you to conciliate his affections and engage his confidence in our alliance, whereby he may be the more readily disposed to comply with our desires respecting other important objects as well as the dismissal of Monsieur Gentil.

54. Your representation of the distressed state of the surviving family of Suffraz Cawn<sup>9</sup> has excited in us so great compassion for them on account of the present reverse of the former splendor and affluence that we assent to the addition of one thousand rupees per month which you have made to the allowance before granted to that family on the reservation of their *talook* to the sole use and benefit of the Company.

55. As the re-annexing to the revenues of the *Circar* the *jaghire* of rupees 22,000 per annum which had been settled on Mahrajah Dirge Narain has reduced him to a state of indigence, we are inclined from the like motive of compassion to turn our view from that mismanagement which occasioned his present unhappy circumstances. In consideration therefore of his distress and the services which his brother Ram Narain hath rendered the Company we assent also to the allowance of rupees 1,200 per month granted by you to the Mahrajah for his support.

*Fifthly, of fortifications, buildings, and revenues*

56. With respect to the present state of your fortifications we feel a sensible pleasure from the information you have given us that the progress made therein since the arrival of your Chief Engineer Lieutenant Colonel Campbell promises a speedy conclusion of a work which has been carried on for so many years and has so greatly contributed to exhaust our treasury in Bengal; but as we have reason to apprehend that time as well as treasure may still be wanting to render the new fort defensible against any considerable European force your Chief Engineer must confine his view to the works already undertaken and which may be most essential to an immediate defence. These are to be executed with all possible dispatch, but no additions to your fortifications by outwards [works] or otherwise are to be entered upon without our express permission.

57. Your Consultations of 13th July 1769 afford us at once a subject of surprize and concern, for we thereby find that the new fort, formed on so large a plan and after such a length of time and drain of treasure for the compleating it, is still incapable to lodge the officers of one brigade and of the detachment returned from the Coast. We however hope that the want of sufficient lodging for our civil and military servants is not owing to a greater number of rooms than what is absolutely necessary being allowed to one person; but should this be the case you must no longer gratify private persons in a desire of extensive accommodations while we are involved in great expenses for the quarters of military officers as well as house rent for our civil establishment.

58. As the allowances you have made to officers whom you may not be able to quarter in the fort are represented to be a cheaper mode than providing houses for them we acquiesce therein, and have only to require that you accommodate with lodging in the fort as many officers as can be supplied therewith,

and that no person do receive the stated allowance of his particular rank merely by reason of its being more agreeable to him than the accommodations of your garrison.

59. Having considered the application which Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, your Chief Engineer, has made to us by the channel of your letter of 25th September, 1769 for obtaining the like annuity as had been given to Mr. Robbins and Colonel Scot, it gives us great concern to find that he should have formed a desire with which we do not think ourselves justified to comply.

60. On our appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Campbell to be Chief Engineer at your Presidency we imagined that we had prevented any expectation of such an indulgence by our declaring that it was not our intention to grant any annuity of this kind. We therefore persuade ourselves that he will not deem our continuing in this opinion as proceeding from any disregard to him or inattention to his abilities, for though we cannot gratify any hopes which Lieutenant Colonel Campbell may have entertained in respect to such indulgence, yet the zeal he has shown for the Company's interest in his careful and judicious examination of the works carried on by the French round Chandernagore and his assiduity in executing our fortifications in Calcutta afford us a pleasure in testifying our approbation of his conduct.

61. We therefore direct that you present Lieutenant Colonel Campbell with a sum out of the Company's cash which shall be to the amount of one thousand pounds sterling as an acknowledgement of his good and faithful services and an encouragement to his persevering therein for the completion of the fortifications committed to his management; and we have such confidence in his integrity and honour that we assure ourselves he will continue to render us those essential services which his abilities as an engineer so well qualify him to perform.

62. The extent and importance of the Company's possessions have made us solicitous to obtain a general chart of India, but we must be greatly obstructed in such a design while the maps and charts we receive from our several Presidencies are drawn upon scales dissimilar to each other; and as the fixing one certain scale will greatly facilitate the formation of a general chart, we shall direct our servants at our different Presidencies that their general maps must in future be formed on a scale of three inches to a degree, and all particular surveys of districts or provinces on scales of six or twelve inches to a degree, as may be thought most proper for the purpose. By these means the separate charts will be reduced more easily to a general one. You are therefore to give the necessary directions for the due observance of this regulation at your Presidency.

63. The coinage of Bengal is a visible source of fraud and imposition, and the inconveniences arising from the absurd distinction of *siccas* and *sunnaut* rupees must have been severely felt by the natives and have contributed to destroy the vigour and activity of trade. But as we have already explained ourselves fully on this subject, and as our President and Council in their late advices have assured us they will carry into execution our repeated orders for the abilitation of *batta* on *sonnauts* we hope to be soon informed that this incitement to rapine and oppression has been totally removed.

64. It is with pleasure we observe that the appointment of Supervisors to

examine into the state of the provinces (under the instructions which our late President has with so much judgment and fulness laid down for their guidance) may be productive of so general a reformation of the abuses which are the immediate objects of our concern that we have little to add to our preceding orders and regulations. We therefore wait with impatience for the issue of the Supervisors' researches, in full hope that our President and Council will have adopted such measures as shall unite with our views not only for the Company's interests but for the good of a country from which we receive so great advantages.

65. As we have reason to believe that many *buzars* are held in the provinces without the authority of Government and which must be an infringement of its rights, a great detriment to the publick collections, and a burthen and oppression on the inhabitants, you will take care that no *buzars* or *gunges* be kept up but such as particularly belong to the Government. But in such *buzars* or *gunges* the duties are to be rated in such manner as their situations and the flourishing state of the respective districts will admit.

66. As we have often recommended an enquiry to be made into the balances said to have been incurred by Mahomud Reza Cawn while renter of the *chuckla* of Dacca, and observing that no effectual enquiry has yet taken place, we have been induced to trace the subject so far as the lights of which we are possessed enable us to investigate the same. And in the first place we find that Mahomud Reza Cawn agreed to pay for the year 1762 Rs. 38,86,242, of which were received only 29,63,281. In the next year Mahomud Reza Cawn pleads that an abatement was agreed to be made of about 12 laacks, but as the sum said to have been received is only six laacks this seems to leave another balance of upwards of twenty laacks.

67. If the whole charge against Mahomud Reza Cawn be true the unadjusted balances seem to be upwards of forty laacks of rupees. If the abatement be allowed which is pleaded by Mahomud Reza Cawn it would reduce the said balance to about thirty laacks of rupees. Although it cannot be supposed that the materials from whence the above statement is collected are so explicit, or that they are an authority sufficient to warrant a positive determination of any specifick sum being due from Mahomud Reza Cawn to the *Circar*, they are nevertheless an undoubted proof that he has not fully accounted for the very considerable sums abovementioned.

68. We therefore cannot but deem you deficient in not having given the above subject a proper investigation, and we expect that you will with all convenient dispatch take such steps as may enable you to inform us fully whether any and what sums ought in justice to be demanded of Mahomud Reza Cawn on account of the above unadjusted balances. And as the object is important we direct that you do not fail to transmit us a full explanation of the manner in which the accounts in question were settled by some of the dispatches of the next season.

69. The repeated accounts we have received of the excessive drought which has so long continued throughout the provinces affects us with the utmost concern for the consequences which are to be feared from it, for while we lament the distresses to which the inhabitants may be reduced thereby, we cannot divest ourselves of anxious apprehensions concerning the effects

which a continuance of the drought may have on the collections of our revenues. However, as we are willing to hope that this calamity will not extend to any great degree, it affords us some consolation to find that your collection had not at the time of your advices suffered any considerable diminution.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military servants, and accounts*

70. The names of the writers we have appointed this season for your Presidency as noticed in our letter of the 4th January last are as follow, and they are to rank in the undermentioned order *vizt.* William Wadsworth, Alexander Kynynmount Elliott, Richard Goodlad, Thomas Dugald Campbell, James Chollet, William Cator, William Douglas, Augustus Cleveland, William Webber, William Chalmers, John Perring, William Dickson, Benjamin Aplin, Henry Vansittart, John Lowes, Richard Lodge, John Davis, Henry Scott, Henry Leake, Cosby Burrowes, John Covert.

71. Mr. Henry Vansittart Junior abovementioned is appointed a writer in the room of Mr. Arthur Vansittart as advised in our letter of the 15th September, 1769, paragraph 13.

72. Messieurs William Cator, John Perring and Richard Lodge being now abroad, their covenants are sent in the *Rochford's* packet, and they must be properly executed and transmitted to us by the first ship.

73. We have permitted Mr. John Dynely, whom we appointed a writer last season but who was then on his passage to England, to return to his station as advised in our letter of the 7th December, 1769, paragraph 9.

74. We have reconsidered the case of Mr. Nicholas Grueber relative to nine thousand rupees expended by him at Buddaul without the leave of the Governor and Council; and although we are still of opinion that Mr. Grueber was unjustifiable in that step, yet as the warehouses were deemed absolutely necessary by his successor and have been ever since they were built appropriated to the Company's service and occupied for the use of the investment, we direct that Mr. Grueber be repaid the 9,000 rupees so expended, and that you inform us whether any and what rent has been paid to Mr. N. Grueber for the use of the said warehouses since the Company have had them in their possession.

75. Upon the perusal of Mr. Lloyd's representation<sup>10</sup> and request and on considering the circumstances relative thereunto we are sorry to be obliged to observe that the statement of his case does not appear to have been made with such accuracy as the nature of the subject required. We should be inclined to yield relief to Mr. Lloyd had it fairly appeared that the loss and inconvenience which he sustained were rendered unavoidable by measures which our Governor and Council deemed for the good of the service and necessary to be carried into execution; but as the Select Committee's resolution to prohibit trading into Shougah Dowla's dominions was six weeks before Mr. Lloyd bought the lead, and as orders in consequence thereof were published by the Council one week before the sale began, of which sale a month's notice had been given, we cannot but be of opinion that all pleas of ignorance on the part of Mr. Lloyd are ill grounded.



76. If it be true that the promise mentioned by Mr. Lloyd was made by Mr. Alexander, Mr. Lloyd ought to have availed himself of such circumstance, and pleaded that promise immediately and not twenty months after the transaction happened. Mr. Alexander, we think, could hardly be indiscreet enough to have so lightly treated a solemn order of Council formed when he was himself present at the Board ; yet should this have been the case Mr. Lloyd must have been very imprudent to listen thereto. But, as Mr. Alexander was absent from the Presidency at the time when Mr. Lloyd preferred his memorial and therefore had no opportunity of refuting the assertion, we direct that you do inform yourselves of the truth of this circumstance ; and if it should appear that assurance was given by Mr. Alexander to Mr. Lloyd that he should have leave to act in direct opposition to publick orders, then and in such case, we direct that Mr. Alexander do make compensation for the loss sustained by the resale of the lead ; otherwise Mr. Lloyd must himself be responsible for the same, for we do not conceive it to be a case wherein the Company ought in any degree to relax from the terms of the first sale.

77. As in the salary assigned to Mr. Darell on our appointing him to the post of Sub-Accountant at your Presidency we were guided by a supposition that the office of Accountant would always be held by a member of Council, we are therefore to inform you that should Mr. Darell have succeeded to the post of Accountant in consequence of our orders of last season that no councillor was to hold any office, he is not thereby entitled to any greater emoluments than we have allowed him. You are therefore not to increase those emoluments without our permission, as we reserve to ourselves the power of granting to our servants such rewards as their diligence and good conduct may deserve.

78. We have appointed the reverend Mr. William Johnson to be one of your chaplains with the allowance settled in our letter of the 11th November, 1768, paragraph 79. We have lent him £100 to be repaid out of his growing salary, agreeable to the tenor of the enclosed bond.

79. We are informed by our Governor and Council of Fort Marlbro' that the Reverend Mr. Baines has left his chaplainship there and is gone either to Fort Saint George or Bengal. We can only suppose his view is to obtain the office of chaplain at one of those Presidencies ; but as this instance of Mr. Baines's conduct is entirely opposite to our inclination and to our strict orders for preventing our servants roving about India and is also subversive of our authority in making such appointments, we therefore hereby positively direct that if Mr. Baines shall be in Bengal upon the receipt hereof he is to be acquainted that he must either return to his duty on the West Coast or be dismissed the service and take passage for Europe on the first ship. Orders to the like effect we have sent to our servants at Fort St. George.

80. We have also been informed that Lieutenant Colonel Egerton and Captain Lockhart Russell<sup>11</sup> of our Bombay establishment are gone to Fort St. George. Should they come to your Presidency it is our positive order that they do return immediately to their stations at Bombay as the nature of our service will not allow our military officers to go from one settlement to another in this manner except with a view of restoring their health, the state of which should always be certified by the surgeons,



81. The unexpected circumstance of so long a period having passed since the departure of our Commissioners from the Cape of Good Hope without our receiving any intelligence of their arrival in any part of India affects us with the deepest concern and alarms us with fears in regard to their personal safety. But though we are still desirous of entertaining hopes that no fatal accident has befallen them, yet in this unhappy state of suspense we must not suffer the important objects of their commission to remain without operation or effect by reason of their absence, whatever may have been the cause of it.

82. We therefore transmit to you such parts of the original instructions to our Superintending Commissioners as relate to the affairs of your Presidency, and in case you shall have no reason to expect their speedy arrival the same must be carried into execution by you in your respective departments in as effectual a manner as if those instructions had been specially directed to you.

83. Having reason to believe the great number of persons now residing in India under our license as free merchants and free mariners are not only burthensome to the Company but to many of our civil servants, we have restrained any from going out this year under those licenses except Mr. Joseph Fowke, who was born at Fort Saint George and many years in Council there and behaved in a very satisfactory manner, to whom we have granted permission to reside in India under free merchants' covenants. But we have permitted Mr. Charles Simpson, a native of Vizagapatam, to return to Fort Saint George; and likewise Mr. Charles Stafford Playdell, late one of your Council, who was obliged in consequence of our orders to come to Europe and left his affairs much perplexed, to return to Bengal and remain three years to collect his outstanding concerns. We have also permitted Mr. Charles Feake, a native of Bengal, to return thither.

84. In order to determine your powers for sending home persons who may have infringed the rights of the Company or acted in defiance of the authority vested by us in our servants, we herewith transmit in duplicate to our President and Council a particular power or commission under the Company's seal for that purpose; and as you will thereby see how far our servants are justified in seizing and sending to England any of His Majesty's subjects who may violate the rights and privileges granted to the Company by sundry acts of Parliament, we refer you to the same for your guidance.

85. To remedy several defects in the engagements which have been formerly entered into with us by our servants both civil and military, and by surgeons, free merchants, free mariners, and others, that are now or may hereafter be employed by the Company or permitted to reside in India under our license and protection, we have thought proper (with the advice of our Standing Council and Solicitor) to add some clauses to the covenants usually entered into by the civil and military servants and free merchants in order to restrain them from assisting foreign companies or supplying country powers with warlike stores and to prevent them from remaining in India beyond a time limited after proper notice given them to depart.

86. With the same view we have thought it necessary that all surgeons and free mariners should enter into covenants with the Company nearly to the like effect as the restrictive clauses abovementioned.

87. But that all our civil and military servants and surgeons or assistant surgeons as likewise free merchants and free mariners now in India may be put upon an equality in their covenant engagements with the Company with those who shall go from England this season or hereafter, we now send you by the ship *Celebrooke* such a number of covenants as upon a calculate made we deem sufficient to be entered into by the persons under the above descriptions that may be employed in or reside at or under our Presidency of Bengal upon the receipt of these advices. And it is our positive order and direction that each of the above described persons be, so soon after the *Colebrooke's* arrival as convenient, required to sign one of the said covenants according to the rank and station he may be in. And should any person refuse a compliance with this our order, if he is in our service he must be dismissed therefrom and sent home, or if one under our protection such protection is to be withdrawn from him and the person so refusing to be sent to England.

88. In the above paragraph you will observe we have directed one covenant to be executed by each person, which covenant after being executed and witnessed by two persons as to the sealing and delivery by the party, and by one person as to the covenanter having previously read the same, must be forwarded to us by the first conveyance after execution. And upon our receiving the same and security being given by two persons here in the undermentioned sums set against the respective stations, we shall transmit a counterpart of each covenant with the Company's seal affixed thereto, which counterpart you must duly deliver to the party concerned. And here it is needful to observe that you must enjoin each person to desire two responsible persons in England to enter into the above security bonds.

The bond for the Governor is to be in.	£10,000.
Each councillor.	4,000.
Each senior merchant.	3,000.
Each junior merchant.	2,000.
Each factor.	1,000.
Each writer.	500.
Each surgeon or assistant surgeon.	1,000.
Each free merchant.	2,000.
Each free mariner.	500.

89. And for your fuller information in this matter and to prevent mistakes in filling up we have forwarded in the packet by the *Colebrooke* copies of the covenants to be entered into by the respective persons above mentioned.

90. As you have already signified to the Commander in Chief the sense you entertained of the improper application made by the military officers to General Smith<sup>12</sup> on his departure from India, we forbear to pass a more severe censure upon Sir Robert Barker on that account; nevertheless we cannot but much resent such conduct in our said military officers. We consider their said proceedings as an indirect attack upon our own honour and impartiality. We are ever ready to lend the most favourable ear to all proper applications made directly to us by any of our servants and to yield such redress as the nature of the case may require; but we can never approve the formal appointment of any person whatever to remonstrate to us on such

subjects, more especially as a particular influence with us must be supposed necessary to induce us to do an act of justice by removing all well-grounded complaints from those of our servants who may suppose themselves aggrieved by the appointment of officers sent out from England by the Court of Directors.

91. We cannot suppress our indignation at your conduct in the appointment of Sir Robert Barker to be a Brigadier General in the Company's service upon the resignation of General Smith. And we are constrained to observe that in this appointment you are so far from having any excuse that the reasons you have assigned for it are too futile to require a reply. We are the more displeased at this insult on our authority as it might have taken from us the full effects of our own spontaneous desire to give Sir Robert Barker a testimony of our sense of his merit.

92. But as by our commission of Brigadier General which we last year transmitted to Sir Robert Barker he will be sensible that we did not stand in need of having a path pointed out to us for shewing our approbation of his conduct, we shall not hesitate to assert our own authority; and we therefore hereby annul the commission of Brigadier General which you have given him, and you are accordingly to take notice that Sir Robert Barker is to bear that rank from the date of our commission only.

93. To free ourselves in future from the irksome necessity of annulling any appointment of field officers which shall not have been made with our permission, we positively direct that you do not at any time take upon yourselves to advance any Commander in Chief to the rank of Brigadier General or appoint any colonel to be Commander in Chief, but the colonel succeeding to such command is to act as provisional Commander in Chief untill you shall be informed of our pleasure in this respect. And we further order that the like rule be observed in regard to all other field officers who in case of succession by any vacancy must be appointed provisionally to the next superior rank until the same shall be confirmed by us.

94. We have considered the request made to you by Lieutenant Colonel Champion to be allowed a share in the commission on your nett territorial revenues granted by us to our civil and military servants. And we must here observe that the plea he has urged for share in that commission from 1st September, 1768, does not afford him the least title to such an indulgence, since it cannot be expected that such gratuities should be given to any officer before his arrival at your Presidency, however involuntary his stay in England might have been. You will therefore inform Lieutenant Colonel Champion that we cannot comply with his request.

95. From the trust we have in the abilities and good conduct of Lieutenant Colonel Chapman we approve of your appointing him Colonel of the Second Brigade on the resignation of General Smith, as the command devolved upon him in the regular order of succession.

96. We cannot but be displeased at your having appointed Major Thomas Dean Pearse to the comand of the artillery on the death of Lieutenant Colonel Kindersley, although you were in possession of our orders  
 \* Par. 55. of the 17th March, 1769,\* wherein we expressly declared that Lieutenant Colonel Winwood was to succeed thereto upon the first vacancy after his arrival. Yet in consideration of the abilities of Major Pearse

we do confirm your appointment, but positively direct that Lieutenant Colonel Winwood do succeed to the chief command of the artillery upon the death or coming away of Lieutenant Colonel Pearse; otherwise we shall highly resent a repetition of your disregard to our orders.

97. On observing your appointment of Captain Du Gloss to be a Major upon brevet we cannot but be dissatisfied at your assuming a power to bestow such favours or distinctions as decency required you to submit to our determination. However, the long and faithful services of Captain Du Gloss and his approved merit have induced us to continue to him the rank he has received from your appointment; but as we shall not admit of your exceeding our establishment of engineers Captain Du Gloss must remain a brevet Major until he shall succeed to the rank of full Major on a vacancy of such in the Corps of Engineers.

98. By the *Duke of Grafton* we received a list of military officers at your Presidency, but it is by no means conformable to our instructions of the

19th February 1762.\* We therefore hereby direct that you

\* Par. 52. send us every season in duplicate at least lists drawn out agreeable to the said orders.

99. There must also accompany the said list another specifying the promotions in your military drawn out in columns in the following manner, *vizt.* in the first the names, in the second the rank, in the third the date of their rank, and in the fourth in whose room and upon what account, agreeable to the enclosed form; and we expect that before the dispatch of our shipping for Europe the Secretary call upon the Town Major for his lists of military officers, muster rolls, and lists of promotions, and he must be informed that if he shall neglect to send his lists in time we shall think him no longer worthy to be continued in that post.

100. Upon examining into the state of your military officers we find the number of field officers greatly exceeds your establishment. We therefore direct that all above three colonels of infantry (including the Commander in Chief), six lieutenant colonels of infantry, one of artillery, and the lieutenant colonel of engineers, six majors of infantry, three of seapoys, one of artillery, and one of engineers, are to be looked upon as supernumeraries, and no promotions must be made till they are provided for, as we are determined that the above establishment shall not be exceeded on any pretence whatsoever.

101. As it frequently happens that you permit field and other officers to come to England for the recovery of their health and upon their leaving India have filled up their commissions whereby our military establishment upon the return of those officers has been exceeded and the Company's expense thereby greatly increased, in order to avoid this evil, we direct that you do not fill up any vacant commissions which shall happen by field or other officers coming to Europe for their health or otherwise with your permission, but that the officers next below them do perform their duty until their return or your receiving our orders to the contrary.

102. And we also direct that all officers who shall obtain your permission for coming to England for their health or otherwise shall signify to you whether they intend to return to India, in which case you are to acquaint them that their pay is to cease from the time of their requesting to come to Europe



until their return, and you must also signify to such officers that we expect upon their arrival in England they do request our permission for remaining here, otherwise we shall look upon such neglect as a resignation of the service and shall fill up their commissions accordingly.

103. With respect to such officers who may throw up their commissions in order to make their applications to us for redress of real or imaginary grievances and to be re-admitted into our service, we have so fully explained ourselves (in our General Letter of the 23d December, 1762, Paragraph 46) on the conduct you are to pursue on such occasions that we shall here only require you to advert to those orders and pay a strict obedience thereto.

104. Upon considering the cases of Captains Benjamin Wilding and George Boulton Eyres we have thought proper to restore them to their original ranks on your military establishment, the former as Lieutenant Colonel next below Lieutenant Colonel Winwood and the latter as Major next under Major Frederick Thomas Smith; but they are to be paid the usual pay of captains only untill the field officers serving under the Presidency shall be reduced to the number mentioned in the 100th paragraph; and when they shall enjoy those ranks by such reduction, they are to have the full pay and emoluments, the former as Lieutenant Colonel and the latter as Major.

105. We have also induced to readmit Captain John Nevil Parker into our service and have accordingly appointed him to be a Captain in your infantry to rank next below Captain James Holme.

106. Captains James Skinner and Charles Maverly who came to Europe to recover their healths and which being restored they are permitted to return to their duty in the ranks they held when they left Bengal, *vizt.* Captain Skinner next under Captain William Hessman and Captain Maverly next beneath Captain Gabriel Johnston.

107. We have permitted Captain John Prise Gwinnet, who came to England with your license, to return to his rank next below Captain John Edmonstone, and he took passage on the *Rochford*.

108. Captain Gwinnet has presented to us a plan for the better regulating our seapoy corps, copy of which is enclosed, and which you will examine taking to your assistance the Commander in Chief and some other of our principal officers and report the whole of your proceedings to us; but you are not to carry any regulations which shall increase our military establishment into execution untill you receive our further directions.

109. We have very maturely considered your proceedings upon the restoration of Captains Goddard and Ahmuty to the ranks they held before the association of the officers in 1766<sup>13</sup>; and it appears to us not only as improper measure but very injurious to those officers who had a just sense of their duty and did not join in the association, and also to those who were sent from Fort St.-George and Bombay to your assistance at that critical time under the assurance that they should not be superceded. But as it appears contrary to all military order that an officer once raised to a superior should serve in an inferior rank without a breach of honour, and having a favorable opinion of the merits of Captains Goddard and Ahmuty, we do agree to their continuing in the ranks you placed them on the 16th December, 1769; but we direct that they receive the pay and allowances of captains only until the



field officers serving under your Presidency shall be reduced to the establishment of six lieutenant colonels and nine majors of infantry and sepoy, when they are to enjoy full pay and emoluments, the former as lieutenant colonel and the latter as major. Yet we are greatly displeased at the liberty you took in promoting those gentlemen when your military establishment was compleat, from whence the Company has been put to great expense.

110. Lieutenant John Mattocks, late an officer on your establishment who was a party in the association of officers in 1766, having expressed great contrition for his conduct, and as no other imputation appearing against his character, we have been induced to readmit him into the service, and hereby appoint him to rank next under the youngest lieutenant of infantry at your Presidency on his arrival.

111. We have given the strictest attention to the whole of your proceedings in regard to the charge brought against Major John Graham,<sup>14</sup> and we are sorry you should have given us occasion to remark that the behaviour of that gentleman appears not to have merited the severity of censure with which you represented his conduct in your letters of 25 September 1769, and much less to have made it necessary for you to dismiss him our service. For although we are fully sensible of the expediency of preserving a strict subordination and discipline in the army, of enforcing the deference and respect due to the Commander in Chief, and of supporting the authority of your Board, yet in the case of Major Graham we cannot but be of opinion that these essential points might have been obtained without recourse to the supreme power with which you are vested, and which you express yourselves so unwilling to employ.

112. The reluctance we have to testify our disapprobation of any part of your transactions without explaining the reasons of it constrains us to take a minute view of the charge against Major Graham, and we find that he had been censured by your Board for failing in respect to his Commander in Chief at Allahabad by his letters of the 26th and 28th March, 1769, and that he was afterwards required to make concessions to the Council and the Commander in Chief for disrespect to both by his request of the 22d June that the letters for which in general orders he had been censured might also be inserted in general orders to prevent the injury of misconstruction of the charge against him.

113. Without entering here into a disquisition how far the apology Major Graham made for any warmth of expression contained in his letters might have attoned for any offence of that nature, we shall only observe that as (when the same had been deemed by you insufficient) Major Graham cheerfully consented to make the precise concessions both to your Board and the Commander in Chief which you had proposed to him, we must consider him as having thereby made requisite attonement for the misdemeanor with which he had been charged.

114. By adverting to your Consultations of the 21st September, 1769, we indeed find that Major Graham was dismissed not for the original charge of want of respect to his Commander in Chief and to your Board, but for insisting that his letter of the 17th of that month which contained his defence should accompany the accusation against him, and both be submitted to us, unless

your Board would condescend to the suppression of both. And as this requisition appears to us too reasonable to have been rejected we know not how you will free yourselves from the imputation of partiality in the present instance.

115. Upon the whole, as you have allowed that at all times before this dispute you had reason to be satisfied with Major Graham's conduct, and as since dismissal we have regretted the loss which our military service has thereby sustained and have given him an honourable testimonial that during his continuance in the service he had in every other point demeaned himself as became a gentleman and a good and gallant officer, we have thought fit to restore Major Graham to his station in the Company's service without prejudice to his rank. We have also permitted him to remain in England till next season for the recovery of his health.

116. Mr. Francis Robertson, late an ensign at your Presidency, and sent home for being deeply concerned in the association of the military officers in 1766 and afterwards resisted the Company's authority, having found means to return to India in a French ship, we therefore positively direct that if he shall be in Bengal upon the receipt hereof you do send him to England forthwith as we will not admit of any military officers remaining in Bengal who have been dismissed the service, and we send similar directions to our other Presidencies.

117. As we experience a particular satisfaction in being able with justice to applaud the conduct of any of our servants, we cannot pass unnoticed the very gallant conduct of Captain Robert Brooke during the time he served in the detachment sent by you to the assistance of our Presidency of Fort Saint George, and we direct that you do not only signify to him our approbation of his conduct but that you embrace every opportunity of yielding him such advantageous marks of your favour as the rules of the service can possibly intitle him to expect or render it prudent for you to afford.

118. In the same light we view the distinguished merit of Captain Gabriel Harper. You will therefore communicate to that officer the favourable sentiments we entertain of his abilities, zeal and alacrity for our service, and assure him that we rest confident they will at all times be fully exerted in promoting the interests of the Company, and particularly in facilitating the accomplishment of our views with respect to the measures necessary to be pursued during his residence in the dominions of the King or Shujah Dowlah.

119. As we do not send any commissioned military officers to your Presidency this season except such are permitted to return to their duty, we appointed eighty-seven cadets whose ranks will appear by the lists in these ships' packets, and who, we doubt not, will be sufficient to fill up all your casualties.

120. From a conviction of the necessity of keeping our armies in India on a respectable footing we have and shall send about fourteen hundred recruits for our military by the ships of this season, and although we design four hundred and fifty thereof for your establishment, five hundred for Fort St. George, and 450 for Bombay, yet we doubt not, when you consider the general good of the service, you will dispose of those ordered for your Presidency in such manner as may be consistent therewith.

121. We have directed the commanders of our several ships to cause the recruits to be exercised at the small arms at all convenient opportunities during

the voyage, not only with a view that the men should in some measure be disciplined on their landing in India but as the means of preserving their health, for which end a chest of small arms and a barrel of gunpowder are sent in every ship, and in most ships either a cadet or non-commissioned officer who is sufficiently acquainted with the use of arms to instruct the recruits in their exercise. You will therefore enquire on the arrival of every ship whether the men have been taught their manual exercise in the outward bound voyage and otherwise properly disciplined as far as circumstances would admit of, and advise us with the result of such your enquiry.

122. Gerard Napper, who went out as a recruit in 1757 and by your last muster roll was a serjeant of infantry at your Presidency, having been represented to us as a person of family, you are therefore, if his conduct has been to your satisfaction, to appoint him a cadet in your infantry to rank as the youngest cadet of this season.

123. The friends of John Fryzer, a soldier in the Second Battalion of the Second Regiment and in Captain Catland's company, having requested his discharge, we have consented thereto as he has served his contracted time, provided he has not agreed to serve for an additional term.

124. As in the absence of the colonel of a brigade the expense of keeping a table falls on the acting Commanding Officer it is a matter of wonder that there should have been a doubt whether the established allowance for a table should remain to the colonel when absent by leave, at which time he could not be subject to the charges for which such allowance was established. But as we find by your Consultation 14th November 1769, that you have very properly determined that this allowance is to be paid during the absence of the colonel to the acting Commanding Officer of the brigade, we have only to enjoin you to take care that your orders in this respect be duly observed on all occasions.

125. As we are informed that it has been customary for the Commander in Chief of our troops to receive duties from the *buzar*, imposed either on the *sutlers* who follow the army for the liberty of keeping shops or stalls, or on the merchandizes or provision they expose to sale, and when we consider the distresses and inconveniences which have heretofore attended our troops either for want of provisions there being bad or sold at an advanced price, and as we conceive it is not sensible to ascertain any precise rule whereby to determine when it may or may not be prudent for the Commander in Chief to levy or forbear to impose such duties, we cannot but be of opinion that all duties whatever imposed directly or indirectly on provisions brought to camp were better remitted as impolitick, tending to discourage country people from yielding us all that assistance they otherwise might do if permitted to sell provisions duty free, and consequently contributing towards advancing their price in camp to a greater height than otherwise might be needful, more especially as such duties are, as far as appears to us, indeterminate, and laid and levied solely at the will and pleasure of the Commander in Chief or some of his servants, which must in some degree render the price of provisions dependent on his disposition, and the proprietor cannot know whether it may answer his purpose to bring provisions to our camp or not before he arrives therein. We therefore hereby direct that no duty, tax or imposition whatever shall at any time be

levied or taken by the Commander in Chief or by any person for him or by any other person or persons on any pretence whatever on or for any provisions and necessaries brought by any person or persons with intent to sell the same to our soldiers, seepoys, or other our servants when encamped or otherwise in the field or marching to or from any place or places in time of war or for the liberty and privilege of erecting and keeping any shop or stall in the *buzar* or attending our camp for the sale of provisions and necessaries only ; and that no merchant or any other person whatever be on any account compelled to sell rice or other necessary provisions to any contractor or other person, but that they be fully at liberty to sell the same in the public *buzar* without any lett hinderance or molestation whatever ; and that this our order be made as publick as possible that all persons as well our servants as the natives of the country may be fully informed thereof and act accordingly ; provided always and we hereby direct that this order shall not extend to give privilege to any person or persons to sell or otherwise vend any sort of spirituous liquors whatever to any of our servants in camp, or to repeal or alter any orders heretofore made by any of our Presidents and Council or otherwise for preventing the sale or consumption of spirituous liquors to or by any persons in our service, but any such order or orders as have heretofore been made for regulating the sale of spirituous liquors shall remain notwithstanding this our order in full force. And we further direct that the Commander in Chief do at all times afford due protection to all persons who may bring provisions with intent to sell them to our troops as aforesaid.

126. The license you have taken in respect to the terms on which you have received money into our treasury for bills to be drawn on us to the amount of upwards of twenty laaks of rupees in direct opposition to our orders of 30th June, 1769, fills us at once with surprize and indignation. And we are little less affected by the cursory, yet determinate, manner in which you inform us that you had preferred your own scheme of remittance as more advantageous and less distressing to us than that we had directed you to pursue. But here, could we pass unnoticed your having arrogated to yourselves the judgment of what mode would distress us the least, we cannot but point to you how erroneous you have been in your opinion of the superior advantage of the method proposed by you ; for upon an exact computation made between the terms prescribed in our orders per *Lapwing* and the mode adopted by you, we find that a loss will be incurred by the Company of upwards of three and three-quarter per cent, even allowing an interest of four per cent on the sums which would be paid sooner upon the terms we had directed than on the three classes of your draughts on us. This being demonstrable by the evidence of figures we shall not stay to shew the defect of any other motive assigned by you for so extraordinary a proceeding.

127. But as in our letter of the 27th of June last we positively forbad you to invade the right we are resolved to reserve to ourselves in respect to fixing the terms and rates on which we may indulge individuals with draughts on our treasury in England, and as by any breach of orders on the subject of remittances you will become responsible for the effects of it, we hope your future conduct will free us from the necessity of adding the full weight of our displeasure to the other inconveniences which you may draw on yourselves by a wilful disobedience in a matter of so much concern. We therefore have



here only to remind you that the orders we transmitted per *Lapwing* respecting the amount and terms of your draughts on us are to be punctually obeyed by you (untill we shall think proper to make any alteration therein) as you value the continuance of our favour or regard the consequences of our resentment.

128. Sir Robert Fletcher has made an application to us for payment of rupees 51,000, which he alleges to be the amount of losses he sustained by being plundered by Sujah Dowlah's cavalry when he was on a forced march to storm the enemy's camp, and setting forth that he wrote to Lord Clive in October 1765 a particular account of those losses ; but as no mention is made of the above facts either on your Consultations or advices, we could not enter into the examination of this claim. We therefore direct you to make a strict enquiry into this transaction and furnish us with every material in your power with your opinion thereupon in order to enable us to decide finally on this claim.

129. In your Consultations of the 16th December 1769 it appears you had upon the evidence of Mahomed Reza Cawn allowed the debt to Bolacky-dass to be justly due to him from the Company and ordered his demand to be paid with interest ; and on the 20th we find you granted bonds on account of the same, also one for rupees 13,435 payable to Miguel Van Colster ; but no mention is made on what account the latter is granted, or whether the bills drawn by him on Bolackydass for £500 advanced here have been discharged. You must therefore give us a full state of this transaction, as Mr. Van Colster remains still in England and has solicited us for a further sum on account of the commission, which he alleges to be due to him from Bolackydass for procuring payment of the beforementioned balance.

130. Having frequently required you to give strict attention to the judicious and necessary regulations adopted by the Committee of Inspection and to enforce the execution of them, we are greatly displeased that many important objects of that Committee's care should have been neglected to such a degree as to defeat the hopes we had of reaping many benefits from it's institution.

131. We shall in particular observe that had the business of the Export Warehouse been attended to with the assiduity and method pointed out by the above Committee, we cannot doubt but that our servants in general must have acquired that knowledge in all the articles of your investment which is necessary for conducting so essential a part of our concerns.

132. But as we are sorry to have so much reason to believe that the generality of our servants are wholly unacquainted with the serveral articles of which your investment is composed, in order therefore to remedy an evil of such pernicious consequences to our affairs, you must appoint the most capable of our servants to superintend the business of the Export Warehouse ; and you will give him full authority to direct the attendance of such of our junior servants in Calcutta as shall be appointed for this service, and to act therein in the manner recommended by the Committee for Inspection ; and such superintendant must be required by you to take care that our servants who shall be summoned by him do duely attend all prizings, sortings and packings ; and in each bale the person who has examined it must put a note



specifying the quality of the cloths or goods with the reasons for their being better than the established muster or inferior to it; and this note must be signed by such person that we may be informed by whom the several bales have been sorted and packed.

133. We are glad to testify our satisfaction at the letter from the Collector General to the Board, dated 14th September, 1769, wherein he seems to have entered so minutely into the state of your revenues, and likewise at the commendable attention you have shewn to his observations. It is with equal satisfaction we acknowledge the accuracy that appears in the collective accounts of his department from March 1769 to September 1769 transmitted to us by the *Duke of Grafton*.

134. The several accounts relative to the Restitution<sup>15</sup> in 1763 are come to hand by the *Hampshire* together with a letter from the Secretary to the Board on that subject. These accounts so far as they go appear to be in general satisfactory; but we expect that you will not omit as soon as possible to furnish us with every other particular that may form a complete state of this transaction as directed in our letter of the 16th March, 1768.

135. We have likewise received the copies of the accounts for the Society of Trade<sup>16</sup> respecting the sale of salt and beetlenut, and in looking into the account current of that society with the Company, dated 26th August, 1769, we observe that the balance due for the duties on those articles is there made to be C.Rs. 137,121 as you advise us in your letter of 25th September, 1769, per *Ankerwyke*; but upon a closer examination of the several sums in the debit of that account, there appears to have been an omission of C.Rs. 220,000, which sum on your treasury receipts and General Books is entered as paid in February 1768 by Mr. Lawrell, Secretary to the Society, in which case instead of the beforementioned balance being due at the closing of that account, you had then received into your treasury the amount of C.Rs. 1,140,000, being C.Rs. 82,879 more than the whole amount of duties set forth.

136. On your treasury accounts for September 1769 there is further entry of C. Rs. 31,000. This, we apprehend, with the above surplus, may have been in part of a new account, which matter you must explain to us, and also why no receipts are found on the General Books ending April 1769 for the duties on salt and beetlenut.

137. We have received by the *Royal Charlotte* in triplicate the general accounts of charges at your Presidency and subordinates, together with the collections and disbursements of your revenues from August 1768 to July 1769. In our letter of 23d March, 1770, we pointed out some few necessary alterations in the method of drawing up those statements which were suggested to us from a review of those transmitted by the ships of the former season. We shall here make some further remarks that have occurred on the accounts last received.

138. As some of the heads of these charges are not to be seen on the General Books under the several entries of charges, we are at a loss to know of what they are composed; and on inspecting the books in order to compare some of those articles that have the same titles, we do not always find the monthly totals of disbursements agree. Particularly, the Mayor's Court charges appear to differ greatly in every monthly entry; the year's amount of

this charge by the books May 1768 to April 1769 is upwards of C.Rs.12,000, whereas the total by the above amount from August 1768 to July 1769 does not make a fourth part of that sum.

139. It should seem likewise that in these accounts no credit is given for stores made or repaired during the course of the year, but that the several articles comprize the gross disbursements of the storekeeper etc. You will therefore give us the necessary information in these particulars, and at the same time acquaint us how far you are enabled to make these materials more complete that we may judge, as mentioned in our former letter, whether such statements are to be considered at estimates or accounts.

140. With respect to the sum C.Rs. 16,240 due from Mr. Parker Hatley, which you advise us his attornies refused to discharge on examining the paymaster's books, we observe that the last payment made by him on that account was in July 1764, since which no demand appears to have been made on him till that above referred to. But, as we apprehend that such seeming neglect was owing to the paymaster's books not being before adjusted, we shall only urge how highly necessary it is that every book should be completed as soon as possible to the latest period in order to prevent oversights of this nature. However, you must not fail to furnish us with any materials that you may judge expedient to remove such difficulties as may arise on adjusting this affair in England.

141. It is with great satisfaction we expect by the next ship to receive the General Books of your Presidency and subordinates to April 1770, and likewise those of your Military Paymaster to April 1769, although we hoped to have received at the same time these last to April 1770; and we rely on you that no opportunity be omitted to forward these likewise by the earliest conveyance.

142. In our letter of March 1769 we observed that you had for some time neglected to send us the books of your General Storekeeper. We likewise observe, but from what cause we are at a loss to determine, that you have never transmitted to us the books of your Export Warehouse Keeper, although we have been regularly supplied with those of the Import Warehouse Keeper. This omission you must in future rectify; and indeed that we may be enabled to enter fully into every investigation that may be required, we must be furnished with every book referred to in the General Books of your Presidency.

143. The same reasons will operate with regard to the General Books of your subordinates, which should be likewise accompanied with their respective subsidiaries.

144. In your Military Paymaster's books under the head of pay to the military and train the monthly entries are inserted in one line in the journal, but you are in future to enter the number of the several ranks in each corps distinguishing the pay of each, which method is pursued in the accounts of the Paymaster of our Presidency of Fort Saint George.

145. In our letter of 23d March, 1770, we directed you to examine several balances standing on your General Books and to transmit to us your sentiments thereon with such information as may enable us to give our final instructions for clearing your books of such useless heads as tend to perplex the state of

your accounts. In the meanwhile we shall remark that your present method of entering the Dr. balances at the end of your journal without any regular disposition is attended with considerable inconvenience, for the several heads of dead stock charges remaining in balance, debts accounts unadjusted being indiscriminately blended together, are not separated without difficulty.

146. You are therefore in future to make the entries in such a manner as may exhibit in a collective view such balances as are of a similar nature, in order to which you are to arrange them in the following manner under different titles.

1st. Dead stock:—Under this will be entered such articles as are to be considered as forming part of your dead stock, each having a head in the ledger, vizt.—New Fort, Dock, Dock head slip, Cradle for careening sloops, Buoys in the river, Old Facory and buildings, Calcutta Town and buildings, Charges—building saltpetre godown, Charges—building new *Cutcherry*, Charges—burying ground, Bankypore Cantonments, Dead stock.

2. Factories and settlements:—Under this will follow the balances due from the several factories.

3. Expeditions:—To include all undertakings to make new settlements or expenses in war for which the returns or reimbursements are dubious as expedition against the Muggs, expedition to Nepaul.

4th. Ships and vessels:—Here follow the particulars of sloops &c. To these may be added the head of *budgerows* and boats.

5th. Money and good debts:—Under this title may be comprized Cash, Treasury, Charges—French prisoners, Advances to the *Duffadars*, Advances to contractors for building new works, King of Pegu, Nabob Nazim O'Dowlah Account—monthly payments, French Company, Commission unappropriated, Mint, Storekeeper General, Storekeeper of the Works, Military Storekeeper, Master Attendant, *Buxey*, Import Warehouse Keeper, Export Warehouse Keeper.

6th. Stores:—Timber and plank, Stores for exportation, Petty stores, General stores, Military stores, Materials and necessaries for building, *Cowries*.

7. Goods in the Import Warehouse.

8. Goods in the Export Warehouse.

Under these titles may be entered the separate heads of the goods in the two Warehouses.

9. At the *aurungs*:—To follow as usual.

10. Revenues:—Burdwan Revenues, Chittagong Province, Midnapore Province, Collector General.

11. Old debts:—Goods from Europe per ship *Stretham*.

Do. . . . . per ship *Lynn*.

Old balance account—the works, Consignments to Batavia, Dutch East India Company, Account Commissary, *Chunam* contract, *Dadney* due from the merchants, Old outstanding debts, Desperate debts.

12. Unadjusted accounts:—Under this may be inserted all such accounts as are not to be considered as debts but which for various reasons are kept open—Charges—law suits, Company's steward, Estimate of losses 1756, Army and navy, European sufferers, Restitution to natives, Armenians, Portuguese inhabitants, Ship *Tetuen bien*, Deposit of ditto.

147. With respect to the warehouse stocks, the particulars of which have hitherto been brought on your General Books, we think such articles should be discontinued and the summary of the import and export trade only appear; but as we have never yet received the books of your Export Warehouse Keeper we shall at present defer giving any orders relative to this matter.

148. By the *Duke of Grafton* we received the account current of Major Kilpatrick's estate, but are sorry to observe that no lights have been thrown thereby upon this transaction. In our letter of 16th March, 1768, we directed you to send his account authenticated under the seal of the Mayor's Court. In the meantime, although no certain judgement can be formed of the nature of this debt, yet, as it undoubtedly ought not to stand under the present denomination, we direct that the sum of C.Rs. 11,674-4-6 appearing due from his estate be wrote off from the head of Account Deposits to Old Outstanding Debts and remain till further orders.

149. We cannot close these observations, without expressing our satisfaction at the conduct of your Sub-Accountant Mr. Darrall for the diligence and care that appear to have been exerted in his department, particularly with respect to the adjustment made of the Patna accounts, the completing of which must have been attended with great labour and perplexity.

150. We have, in consideration of the long services of Mr. Tyso Saul Hancock upon the Coast, confirmed your appointment of him to be a supernumerary surgeon at your Presidency, but in future we shall disapprove of any appointments you may make to persons who have our permission to remain in India only to settle their private affairs.

151. As General Smith pointed out to you several good consequences that would attend the appointment of a Surgeon General to the army, which induced you to comply with his recommendation, we do therefore confirm your nomination to Mr. Anderson to that post.

### *Supplement*

152. We are highly displeased at your passing over so slightly the information you received from Mr. Hugh Inglis that five hundred and fifteen musquets and bayonets had been consigned to him. For, as the private importation of arms or warlike stores of any kind is not only contrary to our orders but may be of the most pernicious consequence to the Company, it is with the utmost surprize we observe that instead of seizing and confiscating those arms as illicit trade you permitted Mr. Inglis to lodge them in your Military Storehouse even without enquiring by whom they had been consigned to him. Your conduct therefore in this respect cannot be justified by your restricting the exportation of those arms either to the eastward or the coast of Africa, since it might justly be apprehended that the same motives which prevailed in the importation might continue to operate in the disposal of them.



153. When we were on the point of closing our dispatches intended for your Presidency by the ships *Colebrooke* and *Lord Holland* the Purser of the *Lapwing* brought us your several letters as follow.—

General Letter ...	...	dated	25th August, 1770.
do (in the Secret Department)	...		8 September 1770.
General Letter from the Select Committee	...		31 August.
Separate do from	do	...	11 September.
Duplicate General Letter from	do	...	28 June.
Letter from the President	...	...	12 September.

154. As the present advanced season will not admit of such a detention of our ships destined for Coast and Bay as would be requisite for our entering into a minute and deliberate disquisition of the important points of your late advices, we shall take the same into consideration after the departure of the ships now under dispatch and shall transmit to you by some early conveyance such observations and orders as may appear to us requisite to guide your conduct in the important affairs under your administration.

155. We however must here observe that notwithstanding the critical circumstances of your Presidency must have rendered the exertion of your utmost abilities and the firmest union in your Councils absolutely necessary, and although the greatest circumspection became your duty in order to preserve that dignity to your government which alone could procure you a proper degree of consequence both in the eyes of friends and enemies, yet we are concerned to find that disputes between our Council and Select Committee have occasioned an extraordinary waste of the time and answered no salutary purpose whatever. As we shall be more explicit on this subject by another conveyance we do in the meantime positively direct that all measures which we have heretofore recommended to the consideration of our Governor and Council be with all convenient dispatch decided upon according to the opinion of the majority of the Council, and that all orders conveyed through that channel be enforced immediately and carried into effectual execution, and particularly that the appointment of Councils at Muxadabad and Patna for the better management of the collections as settled by our President and Council in their Secret Department do immediately take place.

156. And in order to prevent delay of business or inconvenience to our affairs by any misapprehension or undue application of the powers which it is our pleasure should be vested in our President and Council or Select Committee respectively, we have thought proper and do hereby direct that our Select Committee do regard those objects only as peculiar to their department which are particularly specified in our letter dated 23d March, 1770, paragraph 180, to which you are hereby referred. And our further pleasure is that all other business be conducted by our President and Council in their Publick or Secret Department as the case may require until a deviation from these our orders and instructions may be warranted by our express authority and not otherwise.

157. As the famine which has raged to so great a degree throughout the provinces could not but excite in every humane breast the utmost compassion for the miseries which the poor must have suffered from it, we will not admit a thought that our superior servants have not afforded every aid



which humanity could dictate, and employed every means in their power to prevent such a calamity from having more than its natural effects. But, as we are not equally free from an apprehension that even amidst the distresses to which a kingdom was reduced and the depopulation which was in prospect there may have been others in the Company's service or under its protection so far influenced by avarice as to monopolize the chief articles of the support of the poor, we therefore enjoin you to send us a full and exact account of the quantity of rice which during the progress of this calamity has been exported into other parts from those provinces which suffered least by it together with the name of each proprietor of the rice so exported as well as the quantity thereof. And as [*sic*] we expect that unbiassed by partiality you extend your enquiries to the utmost and transmit to us all possible information in respect to a proceeding which may have dishonoured our favour and protection.

158. Observing that you have appointed Mr. Palk, one of the Board of Revenue at Patna, we cannot but express our astonishment that you should have given a post of that consequence to a person who had behaved so unbecomingly in the affair of the overcharges and abuses committed at the cantonments of Burrampore, and who since his being pardoned for that offence had not given you proof sufficient of his integrity to justify you in making such an appointment. We therefore direct that he be recalled from that station upon receipt hereof and employed in his proper rank in our service at Calcutta.

159. Notwithstanding any of our former orders for restraining the Commander in Chief at your Presidency from a constant seat and voice at your Councils and Select Committee, it is our pleasure that your present Commander in Chief and his successors to that post have a constant seat and voice at your General and Secret Council Boards and at your Select Committee.

160. The office of Judge Advocate in our opinion being very proper to be filled up by one of our civil servants than any one of those upon the military line and Mr. John Stewart, a gentleman of whose integrity and abilities we are fully satisfied, having offered his services for that employ, we therefore recommend him to you to be appointed to that station agreeably to the powers delegated to you by our commission, and that from the time of his arrival at Fort William he be paid the usual salary allowed to such post, where he is to remain until a vacancy happen in the Secretary's office, for as this gentleman has filled with reputation a station in the Secretary of State's office here, we have been induced to appoint him to succeed to the first vacancy of Secretary at your Presidency. And as Mr. Stewart now takes passage on the *Lord Holland* we direct that he be appointed to succeed to the first vacancy of Secretary either in your civil or military department next after the gentlemen who now fill those stations. And if you should stand in need of Mr. Stewart's assistance (which may be needful to instruct him in the detail of your affairs) before such vacancy happens we would have you allow him such gratuity for his trouble as you may think him deserve.

161. As it is our intention that henceforward the persons who shall be appointed to the post of Secretary or Assistant Secretary at your settlement be fixed in those stations, it is our pleasure whoever may be so appointed to the former of those employs shall have the rank of youngest Senior Merchant

and to the latter the rank of youngest Junior Merchant with the salary and allowances annexed thereto and not to rise to higher ranks in our service.

162. Considering the importance of the Government of Bengal and being well persuaded of the abilities of Warren Hastings Esqr. for the due discharge of the office of Governor, we do hereby appoint him second of Council at Fort William and to succeed Mr. Cartier as President and Governor of Bengal, and we have accordingly directed Mr. Hastings to proceed to Fort William as expeditiously as possible to take his seat in Council at your Presidency.

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Colebrooke/J. Purling/Thos. Rous/  
Hy. Crabb Boulton / John Harrison /  
Fredk. Pigou / Edwd. Holden Crutten-  
den / George Cuming / Henry Savage /  
Jas. Cockburn / Daniel Wier / William  
James / John Michie / William Deva-  
ynes / Robert Gregory / Ben. Booth /  
John Roberts / Chas. Chambers Junr. /  
Pet. Lascelles.

London,  
the 10th April 1771.  
(Per Lord Holland)

13

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 1771

*Select Committee censured for disobeying orders—Cartier recalled and disciplinary action taken against others—reconstitution of the Council and the Select Committee—Hastings to succeed Cartier as Governor.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since closing our letter of the 10th instant we have more fully considered the conduct of our Governor and Council and Select Committee at Bengal; and we entirely disapprove the opposition given by our Select Committee to a measure which was positively ordered by the Court of Directors and for the speedy accomplishment whereof the *Lapwing* packet was dispatched express to your Presidency.

2. And as so alarming a disunion amongst our servants may be attended with consequences of a very serious nature, we cannot omit the present opportunity of testifying our displeasure against those persons who have opposed the execution of our orders.

3. It is therefore our pleasure, and we do hereby direct that Mr. Becher be dismissed from our Council at Bengal, and that Mr. Claud Russell and Mr. Chas. Floyer be immediately removed from our service in Bengal, and that they do return to Madras with all convenient dispatch, where they are

to take rank in those stations which they would have now held in the Company's service respectively in case they had remained until this time without interruption on the Fort St. George establishment.

4. By the foregoing removal of Mr. Becher from the Council, and of Messrs. Russell and Floyer to their respective stations upon the Fort St. George establishment, and the appointment of Mr. Hastings (by our letter of the 10th instant) to succeed Mr. Cartier at your Presidency, and having likewise re-admitted Messrs. Rumbold and Dacres into our service, it becomes necessary to make a new arrangement of our Council. We therefore direct that upon the receipt hereof it be composed of the following gentlemen notwithstanding our orders of the 23rd March, 1770, for limiting the number of Council to nine members exclusive of the Commander in Chief.

John Cartier Esqr. . . . .	President and Governor
Warren Hastings Esqr. . . . .	Second, and to succeed to the Government in case of the death or coming away of Mr. Cartier
Brigadier General Sir Robert Barker	Third (or the Commander in Chief for the time being) but not to rise higher
Mr. James Alexander . . . . .	Fourth
Thomas Rumbold . . . . .	Fifth
Samuel Middleton . . . . .	Sixth
William Aldersey . . . . .	Seventh
Thomas Kelsall . . . . .	Eighth
John Reed . . . . .	Ninth
Francis Hare . . . . .	Tenth
Joseph Jekyll . . . . .	Eleventh
Phillip Milner Dacres . . . . .	Twelfth
Thomas Lane . . . . .	Thirteenth.
Richard Barwell . . . . .	Fourteenth and last of Council

5. And we do hereby further appoint that our Governor of Bengal, the Commander in Chief for the time being, and the three senior members of our abovementioned Council be a Select Committee, with the like powers, and under the same regulations, as are established by the 180th paragraph of our General Letter, dated the 23rd March, 1770.

6. Our present situation with the public, and the jealous eye with which it inspects our proceedings, make it absolutely requisite that we should have every possible intelligence respecting our military in India. You are therefore hereby directed that by every ship whereon you transport any returning soldiers to England, you transmit us an exact list thereof, and particularly distinguish the healthy from such as you may have discharged as invalided.

7. The gentlemen we have appointed our Secret Committee for the ensuing year and whose powers are the same as those of the preceding year are John Purling Esqr. Chairman of our Court, George Dudley Esqr.—Deputy Chairman, John Harrison, John Manship, Frederick Pigou, Thomas Rous, Henry Savage and Laurence Sullivan Esqrs.

8. A Persian grammar lately published here being esteemed a very useful work for acquiring a true knowledge of that language, we send you a few



Warren Hastings





copies thereof by the ships now under dispatch, that such of our servants who are employed on that study may have all the assistance in our power to enable them to obtain an accomplishment, which will particularly recommend them to our notice.

9. We have drawn upon you the following set of bills of exchange, payable at 2s. 2½d. the rupee and thirty days sight:

One set for Rs. 1,267-14-1 payable to Mr. Richard

Chicheley Plowden or order for pounds sterling 140 received of Edward Wheler Esqr.,  
dated the 25th April, 1771.

> Rs. 1,267-14-1      £140.

10. We are truly sorry, after having entertained the highest opinion of the abilities and good conduct of our President Mr. Cartier, that he should in any shape incur our displeasure; but we cannot pass over his late conduct in joining a resolution to retard the execution of our orders, which, if they had been vigorously enforced, would, we cannot doubt, have tended so much to the public welfare, and reflected honour on every individual who might have had the execution of them. We therefore direct that Mr. Cartier do continue in the Government of our Presidency of Fort William till the departure of the last ship of the season for Europe after the arrival of Mr. Hastings in Bengal, on or before which time, it is our pleasure that Mr. Cartier do resign that Government to Mr. Hastings.

We are,

Your loving friends,

J. Purling / Geo. Dudley / Thos. Rous /  
John Harrison / Fredk. Pigou / Peter Du  
Cane Junr. / Edwd. Wheler / Henry  
Fletcher/H. Verelst/Jno. Woodhouse /  
Wm. James / Jno. Michie / L. Sullivan /  
John Roberts/J. Hurlock/Daniel Wier/  
Robt. Gregory.

London,  
25th April, 1771.  
(Per Colebrooke)

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 3 MAY 1771

*Appointment of Italian silk winders for service in Bengal—petition of Richard Whittall against an order of the Mayor's Court—strictures on the conduct of the Mayor's Court in the case of Alexander Jephson—strictures on negligence in packing goods.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We sent our last General Letters dated 10th and 25th April by the *Colebrooke*, which sailed on her voyage the 30th following, and by the *Lord Holland* you will receive the duplicates thereof.

2. We have since closing the beforementioned letters procured at a considerable expence Francis Clerici, Pietro Spera, and Paulo Erra as spinners of raw silk to be employed in the filatures under the direction of Messrs. Wiss, Aubert and Robinson. They have contract to serve six years from the 14th January last at the salary of thirty pounds a year each, exclusive of their travelling charges and house rent; they are also to be paid the expence of their passage from India at the expiration of their contracted term, should they not choose to remain longer in India.

3. You are to deduct from the wages of Francis Clerici ten shillings and six pence a month, and five shillings and three pence per month from Pietro Spera's, which sums are to be paid to their relations in Italy agreeable to the terms of their agreement, copy whereof is inclosed, and they are to be employed in such manner as will best answer the end of their being sent out.

4. Upon the arrival of the beforementioned Italians you are to enquire of them in what manner they have been treated during the voyage, as we have given positive directions to Captain Nairn to behave to them with the greatest humanity and are resolved to resent any ill usage they may meet with in their passage.

5. As we gave direction by our letter of the 7th of December, 1769, that you should appoint Mr. Charles Croftes, one of the assistants to the Board at Muxadavad, we make no doubt that before the receipt of this you will have paid a proper attention to our said order.

6. A petition having been presented to us by Mr. Richard Whittall, late one of the attornies of the Mayor's Court at Calcutta and dismissed from his office by an order of the said court dated the 4th August, 1769.

7. We considered the merits of the said petition and directed a case to be stated thereon for the opinion of Mr. Sayer, the Company's Standing Council, which opinion is to the following effect.

"The dismissal of Mr. Whittall from acting as an Attorney of the Mayor's Court appears from Mr. Whittall's case to be an order made in a cause, consequently may be appealed from and ought to be heard by the Governor and Council; but it is not in the power of the Directors of themselves to reverse any order made in a cause. It is not only adviseable, but in my opinion necessary, for the Directors in their General Letter to the Governor and Council to state their thoughts of Mr. Whittall's dismissal as to that part of the order that declares without specifying any particulars of the bad conduct Mr. Whittall was guilty of, which *in the course of his transactions of the business of his office frequently merited and received the severe reprehensions of the court*. Such general charges of misbehaviour without facts are very gross and unbecoming a court of justice, and have more the appearance of private resentment than public good, especially from a court whose orders may be reversed by appeal. The Directors should recommend to the Governor and Council to admit the appeal and act therein as the justice of the case shall require."

8. Mr. Whittall now proceeds to Bengal on the ship *Lord Holland* in order to prefer to you his petition of appeal, which we recommend to you to receive and to take the same into serious consideration, not doubting but he

will receive at your hands all the justice which his case requires. At the same time we do not mean to bias or prejudice your judgment in the course of this proceeding.

9. Joseph Hodgson, whom we have appointed to be a volunteer in your pilot service and takes his passage on the *Lord Holland*, having been several years master of a vessel to the West Indies and coast of Guinea, we therefore direct that you avail yourselves of his abilities and promote him in the pilot service according to his merit.

10. We transmit you herewith the memorial of Alexander Jephson on the behalf of himself and Philadelphia, his wife, lately presented to us complaining of the most cruel injustice done him by the Mayor's Court at Calcutta, and your refusal of redress upon his complaint exhibited to you by way of appeal against that injustice.

11. Commonsense suggests that in the case of an executor he ought never to be held to bail but where there is the fullest proof not only of the debt claimed to be due, but that he is possessed of assets belonging to the deceased applicable to the discharge of such debt which he willfully withholds or which are in danger of being squandered away. Much less ought an executor to be put into prison or held to bail either upon a *ne exeat regno*<sup>1</sup> or any other process, when it appears upon his oath, either upon an inventory delivered in or his answer to a bill filed against him for payment of the demand, that the estate of his testator is insolvent. In such a case it is not to be conceived that the most erroneous judgment could suggest such proceedings as have been put in practise against Mr. Jephson.

12. Equally absurd is it for you to entertain doubts of receiving appeals against the interlocutory orders or sentences of the Mayor's Court in causes depending before them, because they are not compleat judgments or decrees. Every order made by a court of justice is a sentence or decree within the meaning of our charter of justice, and there is not a syllable in it that can lead you to suppose but only final judgments or decrees were meant to be the subjects of appeal. In this kingdom it is every day's practise to see appeals lodged in the House of Lords and at the Council Board against interlocutory orders of the Courts of Chancery of England and Ireland and of the courts of justice in the King's dominions abroad in numberless instances where there is not the least decision upon the merits, frequently upon the competency or admissibility of witnesses before it is possible to know what evidence they would give, or how far when given it would affect the cause, often upon orders for trials at law or new trials the event whereof cannot be foreseen.

13. The facts stated in the memorial laid before us are of so extraordinary a nature and the treatment Mr. Jephson and his wife received seemed to us so big with oppression and injustice that before we could judge what was fitting to be done thereon we thought it adviseable to lay the whole of the proceedings before Mr. Sayer, the Company's Council, for his opinion, which we transmit to you herewith, together with the opinions of Sir William De Grey, the present Chief Justice of His Majesty's Court of Common Pleas, and of Sir Fletcher Norton, formerly His Majesty's Attorney General and now Speaker of the House of Commons, on Mr. Jephson's case.

14. It is with much concern and indignation we observe our courts of justice prostituted to such purposes as must carry with them not only an indelible reproach to the courts themselves but to that Government by which they were instituted ; and that we may entirely acquit ourselves of giving the least countenance to such illegal acts, we injoin you immediately to receive Mr. Jephson's appeal whenever he shall present the same, that you enquire strictly and minutely into all the circumstances of his complaints and cause full and ample justice to be done therein.

15. After having thus expressed our abhorrence of proceedings carrying on the face of them such evident marks of oppression, we trust that you will in future prevent any further complaints of this nature against yourselves ; and that on the present occasion you will without favor or affection put in execution the advice of our Council, if satisfactory evidence can be obtained of such insolent declarations being uttered from the bench as are laid to the charge of those sitting upon it to administer justice under the laws of England and those laws only.

16. The cargos of the ships *Duke of Grafton* and *Anson* having been further inspected since closing our list of investment transmitted by this conveyance, it lays it under the disagreeable necessity of observing that both the raw silk and piece goods, particularly by the latter ship, most of which we find you bought for ready money and invoiced at fifty per cent above their real value, have not been prized, sorted or packed with the least degree of attention. This neglect we deem unpardonable, for let the quality of the goods be ever so bad, nothing can justify so great an inattention to our interest and your duty ; and let the persons be whom they may that have been guilty of it, we shall not fail to testify our highest displeasure towards them by another opportunity. In the meantime we direct you to make a very particular enquiry into this matter and report the whole to us with the names of those persons who have injured us therein, and we do further positively direct that in future you strictly adhere to the orders communicated to you in the 131st and 132nd paragraphs of our General Letter of the 10th of last month under pain of our severest resentment.

London,  
the 3rd May, 1771.  
(Per *Lapwing*)

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
J. Purling / Geo. Dudley / Tho. Rous /  
Jno. Woodhouse / J. Manship / Fredk.  
Pigou / Heny. Savage / Wm. James /  
John Roberts / Edwd. Wheler / Henry  
Fletcher / George Cuming / J. Hurlock /  
H. Verelst / Jno. Michie / Daniel Wier /  
John Harrison / Peter Du Cane Junr. /  
Ja. Cockburn / Lau. Sullivan.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 12 JUNE 1771

*Shipping news and other routine matters—Cartier to be treated with respect while in India—Bolts allowed to return to Bengal.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The ship *Lord Holland*, which sailed on her voyage the 14th May, carried our letter of the 3d preceeding, also the duplicates of our advices of the 10th and 25th April.

2. On the 12th May we received by the ship *Prince of Wales* the under-mentioned advices from your Presidency, *vizt.*,

General Letters dated 30th October<sup>1</sup> and 1st November, 1770

Do in the Secret Department

Letter from the Select Committee - 30th [31st?] October

3. You will receive this letter by the *Britannia* Captain James Swithin, lately purchased by us to proceed to Bombay in her way to Fort St. George and Balambangan, but to call first at Anjengo to land the packets for Fort St. George and your Presidency, which the Chief and Council are ordered to forward overland as speedily as possible.

4. We have sent to our President and Council at Fort St. George copies of our letters to Bombay and such other papers as we judged necessary for their information, of which they are directed to send you copies for your guidance respecting our design of establishing a settlement at Balambangan or some island or place adjoining; and as we have much at heart the success of this expedition, it is our positive direction that you give every assistance in your power towards effecting the same.

5. The three Italians whom we advised you by the *Lord Holland* were appointed spinners of raw silk at your Presidency, not arriving in time to go  
3rd May 1771, on that ship, now take their passage on the *Britannia* to  
Pa. 2. Bombay, from whence our President and Council there are to provide them with a conveyance and to defray every charge that may be incurred on their account till they arrive with you.

6. Our Secretary by our direction wrote you a letter dated the 8th May enclosing some remarks on the raw silk and piece goods then on sale, which were so bad that the trade would not bid for them. As the sale is since finished we send further remarks on those species of goods, and we positively direct that you make a very minute and strict enquiry concerning the purchases of the goods complained of as directed by our letter of 3d May and give us a full and particular account of your proceedings, as we shall not fail shewing a just resentment against any who shall be found guilty of such a flagrant breach of their duty as appears in this transaction.

7. After our advices dated the 3d May were closed, we directed our Secretary to acquaint you in a letter of the 8th that notwithstanding the orders



in our General Letter of the 25th last for President Cartier's resignation of the Government of Bengal to Mr. Hastings on the departure of the last ship of the season after Mr. Hastings's arrival at your Presidency, it was not our intention Mr. Cartier should thereupon be obliged to leave India; and therefore, if he chose to continue some time longer there to settle his private affairs, he had our permission so to do, and during his continuance in Bengal he was to be treated with the respect due to the distinguished station he had held in our service. This indulgence we hereby confirm, and expect the same has in all respects been observed by you.

8. Mr. John Stewart, whom we recommended should succeed to the office of Judge Advocate at your Presidency until the post of Secretary either in your civil or military department shall become vacant, agreeable to the 160th paragraph of our letter of 10th April, now proceeds on the *Britannia* by the way of Bombay, and we send in this packet Senior Merchant's covenants for him to execute upon his succeeding to the post of Secretary, which on being executed are then to be returned to us.

9. Lieutenant John Mattocks mentioned in our letter of the 10th April returns to his duty in our military on the *Britannia*, as he could not get ready in time to proceed on one of the Coast and Bay ships.

10. Mr. William Bolts having applied to us for permission to take passage to Bombay on the *Britannia* in order to proceed to Bengal to resume the office of an Alderman in the Mayor's Court at Calcutta, we have thought proper to comply with his request, and have positively directed that he be not permitted to stay longer at Bombay than until the first conveyance that may offer either by an Europe or country ship's sailing for your Presidency on which he is to embark.

London,  
12th June, 1771.  
(Per *Lapwing*)

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
J. Purling / Geo. Dudley / E. Crutten-  
den / John Harrison / George Cuming /  
Wm. James / Ja. Cockburn / John  
Roberts / Daniel Wier / Peter Du Cane  
Junr. / Robt. Gregory / Joshua Smith /  
Jno. Woodhouse / Jno. Michie / Henry  
Fletcher / J. Hurlock / L. Sullivan /  
Edwd. Wheler / Heny. Savage / Thos.  
Rous.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 28 AUGUST 1771

*Shipping news—conduct of Company's servants charged with cornering grain during the late famine to be investigated and the guilty dismissed—grant of monopoly rights in salt trade granted by Riza Khan criticised and instructions given for the maintenance of freedom of trade in the necessities of life like salt, betel-nut and tobacco—disappointment at the decrease in Diwani revenues and the general working of the administration and the decision that the Company should directly “stand forth as Duan”—dismissal of Riza Khan and appointment of his successor—instructions relative to appointments to the posts of Residents and Chiefs of factories—Fort William Government censured : for neglecting to transmit the General Books of the subordinate factories, opening the treasury for drafts on London, and allowing penalty to be paid in respect of a certain bill of exchange, which was ordered to be reimbursed by the members of the Council—Maratha menace and the politics of the north-west—succession to the zamindari of Benares—Fort William Council censured for encroaching on the Court's power to establish new posts and reward meritorious service—postscript : total bills issued on London not to exceed £10,000 in a year, subject to certain exceptions.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since we wrote to you under date of the 12th June by the *Britannia*, duplicate of which letter is herewith transmitted, we have received by the ships *Duke of Kingston*, *Houghton* and *Europa* the undermentioned advices vizt.,

General Letter in the Public Department	dated 12 December 1770 with postcript of the 20th	Received per <i>Duke of Kingston</i> and du- plicate per <i>Hough- ton</i>
-do- in the Secret -do-	-do-	-do-
-do- from the Select Committee	31st -do- <sup>1</sup>	-do-
-do- in the Public Department	15 January 1771	per <i>Europa</i>
-do- in the Secret -do-	-do-	-do-
-do- Select Committee	18th -do-	-do.

2. In order to forward such advices as we deemed essential to the welfare of the Company we caused the *Lapwing* snow commanded by Captain Henry Gardiner, to be expeditiously fitted, and she now proceeds as an advice vessel. On her arrival at your Presidency she is to be returned to Europe with dispatches when and in such manner as you shall see proper. The snow being thus employed no goods are laden on her on our account, but we have placed in the Commander's hands one thousand ounces of foreign silver for her use in the voyage if she should be under the necessity of putting into any port for repairs or refreshments. The Captain therefore must account for the dis-

posal of any part of it, and deliver the balance thereof to you. Herewith you will receive an inventory of the *Lapwing* and every thing belonging to her, an account of the charge of the outset, the contract with the mariners and their respective wages, copy of the Captain's instructions and all other necessary papers.

3. Captain Henry Gardiner upon his arrival applied to us to be restored to the command of the *Lapwing*, whereupon we attentively went through the whole of the proceedings of the committee you appointed to examine into his conduct on a complaint exhibited against him by his Second Mate, and it clearly appeared to us that his behavior was in several instances very exceptionable. We therefore are of opinion that your dismissing him from the command of the *Lapwing* was right and proper upon the evidence that was produced.

4. But Captain Gardiner some time after presented to us another memorial accompanied with a narrative of his remarks on the conduct and behavior of the officers on board the *Lapwing* in her outward bound voyage to Bengal, and a letter under the handwriting of Thomas Adams, the principal and only evidence upon oath against him in Bengal, contradicting the most material part of his affidavit entered upon your Consultations. Captain Gardiner was also examined thereon, and it appearing to us that many charges had been falsely urged against Captain Gardiner, though his behavior in many instances was highly blameable, yet, as, in general, we have found him to be an active and diligent officer, and although we approved of your dismissal of him from the evidence then produced, we have, in consideration of his former services and the hardships he has suffered, reinstated him in the command of the *Lapwing*.

5. The ships taken up this season for all parts of the East Indies and China are at an advanced freight of twenty shillings per ton more than last year, and in consideration of the dearness of provisions in the East Indies the demorage is raised to nine pence a ton per day; the Company are also to pay all increase of wages above twenty-six shillings per month. The names of the ships, their commanders and consignments are as follow.

<i>Granby</i>	John Johnstone	China direct
New ship	William Money	
do	Alexr. Hamilton	
<i>Lioness</i>	William Larkins	Madeira Coast and China
<i>Duke of Grafton</i>	Brook Samson	} Coast and China
New ship	James Buggin	
do	David Mitchell	
<i>Earl of Ashburnham</i>	Richard Peirce	Coast and China
<i>Earl of Lincoln</i>	Alexander Tod	
New ship	Francis Fortescue	
<i>Havannah</i>	John White	Bencoolen and China
<i>Earl of Middlesex</i>	John Rogers	St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Triton</i>	Willm. Elphinstone	
<i>Greenwich</i>	Robert Carr	Madeira Coast and Bay

<i>Prince of Wales</i>	Jonathan Court	} Coast and Bay
<i>Anson</i>	John Lennox	
<i>Nottingham</i>	Peter Stoakes	
<i>Duke of Albany</i>	John Stewart	} Bombay and China
New ship	Arthur Gore	
do	John Clements	
<i>Duke of Cumberland</i>	Augustus Savage	Madeira and Bombay
New ship	Robert Rous	} Bombay
<i>Hector</i>	Stephen Williams	
<i>Devonshire</i>	Matthew Hore	
<i>Speaker</i>	Robert Scott	

Besides the abovementioned we have resolved to take up another ship for St. Helena and China.

6. We give you this early information of the ships taken up, that you may be apprized not only of the number to be returned from your side of India, but also to concert with our other Presidencies for the most expeditious dispatch of all our shipping that the heavy expence of demorage may be avoided as much as possible.

7. The snow *Lapwing* having in her last voyage been converted into a ship, whereby the Company incurred a considerable expence, you are hereby positively ordered, on no pretence whatever, to permit a mizen mast to be added to the said vessel, but she must continue rigged as a snow in the same manner as she sails from the port of London.

8. Having advised you of such particulars respecting the consignments of our ships for the ensuing season as we are enabled to communicate to you by this conveyance, we proceed to those points which induced us to expedite the *Lapwing's* departure for your Presidency and shall signify our pleasure in such other respects as have fallen under our consideration.

9. At a time when famine was depopulating a country with which we are so immediately connected and in the prosperity whereof we are so deeply interested, we cannot but highly approve every well-meant and generous effort to relieve the miseries of the poor inhabitants, by whom, in an especial manner, the calamity must have been experienced in all its dreadful consequences. And as we enjoy a very singular pleasure in commending those of our servants whose attention has been turned towards alleviating the general distress, so are we filled with the greatest indignation on finding a charge exhibited against any persons whatever, but especially natives of England, for monopolizing grain, and thereby aggravating the woes, and, no doubt, increasing the numbers of wretched mortals, laboring under the most awful circumstances, which could possibly happen to any people whatsoever.

10. We are led to these reflections by perusing the letters from Mr. Becher and Mahomud Reza Cawn, which accuse *the* gomastahs of *English gentlemen*, not barely for monopolizing grain, but for compelling the poor ryotts to sell *even the seed requisite for the next harvest!* It was natural for us to expect, upon reading the above advices, that the strictest enquiry into the names and stations of all persons capable of such transactions would have been the immediate consequence, and that the most exemplary punishment had been inflicted upon all offenders who could dare to counteract the benevolence of



the Company, and entertain a thought of profiting by the universal distress of the miserable natives, whose dying cries, it is said, were too affecting to admit of an adequate description.

11. You will judge from hence how great must have been our surprize on observing that upon a general charge of this nature having been made, and not one name specified either by Mr. Becher or Mahomud Reza Cawn, you never entered into any enquiry at all about the matter, and what seems equally strange and absurd, you, in general terms, tell the Resident at the Durbar, he may depend on your concurrence in *every measure that may tend to relieve the distress of the poor in this time of dearth*, and yet reject the only particular remedy pointed out and recommended by him for that purpose! And on this occasion we must remark that whatever other expedients might have been applied, none could, in our opinion, have operated more speedily or effectually than that suggested by Mr. Becher, of totally prohibiting all Europeans, in their private capacity, or their *gomastahs* from dealing in rice during the scarcity of that article. But as part of the charge sets forth that the ryotts were compelled to sell their rice to these monopolizing Europeans, we have reason to suspect that they could be no other than persons of some rank in our service. Otherwise, we apprehend they would not have presumed on having influence sufficient to prevent an enquiry into their proceedings, in case they were hardy enough to attempt the oppression of the natives or to monopolize the necessaries of life; for though these practices are at all times unwarrantable and very destructive, they were rendered exceedingly so by the unhappy circumstances of the province at that conjuncture.

12. We do therefore enjoin you to examine impartially the above charge, which we cannot suppose would have been made, if there had been no foundation at all for it; and we direct that whoever may be found guilty of a conduct which appears to us so unworthy be forthwith dismissed from our service, or deprived of our protection if not in our service, and sent to Europe as a warning to all persons not to contribute towards oppressing the poor, which we are determined never to permit whilst in our power to prevent it, nor to spare the offenders whenever we may be able to detect them.

13. The numberless complaints which you say you have received from the merchants of Calcutta respecting the salt trade and the *perwannahs* granted under the seal of Mahomud Reza Cawn for a monopoly of the trade for three years exhibit a scene so contrary to our expectations, so opposite to our intentions, and so contradictory to our positive commands, that we can by no means approve your lenient conduct, either towards Mahomud Reza Cawn or Telukee Ram, the latter of whom, under different zemindars, was, it seems, the man appointed to be the actual monopolist of that article. We are well persuaded that Mahomud Reza Cawn could not be so easily imposed upon as he pretends to have been by persons who are said to have solicited the *perwannahs*. It is not at all probable that he could believe the salt works were unoccupied whilst so many merchants were even clamorous for a share in the trade; but supposing he had believed it, as he owns he was at that time in Calcutta, his plain duty was to have represented the matter directly to our Governor and Council, and not to have granted very extraordinary privileges to individuals in direct contradiction to the Company's orders with which he was perfectly acquainted. But it appears to us very



probable that Mahomud Reza Cawn's undue influence had totally discouraged the merchants ; and it is no wonder they became willing to receive back their money, when they could no longer indulge an expectation of obtaining any salt ; but we observe, however, that they were as unable to recover their advances as to prosecute their trade.

14. As Mahomud Reza Cawn had the express orders of the Company and the regulations of the Committee before him for his guidance, we are greatly astonished that he should presume on such frivolous pretences to disobey the one and totally to disregard the other. And it is impossible, after detecting him in such conduct, that we should any longer consider him as a proper object of that full confidence hitherto reposed in him. We have in this transaction the plainest proof of his secretly counteracting our positive commands, and we must conclude that he will not scruple to repeat the same practices whenever self-interest and a favorable opportunity concur for that purpose.

15. The diminution of the duties on salt is so very considerable that we cannot but express our astonishment at your declared ignorance of the cause thereof, and although the result of your examination into the conduct of the *Fouzedar* of Houghly may, in some degree, enable you to assign reasons for the great loss sustained by the Company on this account, yet we cannot but be of opinion that the *perwannahs* granted by Mahomet Reza Cawn for a monopoly have so powerfully operated in reducing the revenue arising from salt as to render it necessary for you to turn your enquiries to that quarter ; the case is plain, and the deduction by no means forced. How it could be deemed so little worthy of your notice, we are at a loss to conceive, or how you could advert to the fact of salt being monopolized under the express authority of Mahomet Reza Cawn and not be aware of the consequence, namely, that he, having presumed to transgress the Company's commands, would also avail himself of his station to screen his agents from paying duties or compel them to compound with him for the same to the damage of the Company.

16. Solicitous as we are that the inland trade in salt, beetle nut and tobacco should be secured from the evils which would attend a monopoly of those articles, were the same carried on either by Europeans or natives, we cannot but be pleased to find that our intentions in this respect (communicated in our orders per *Lord Mansfield*) have been published by you. And as the instructions we transmitted to our Commissioners will convince you how much we have at heart the absolute freedom of this trade, subject only to such duties as we are assured will be so far from distressing the inhabitants that they will be sensible of the superior benefits we are anxious they should enjoy under the influence of our Government, we therefore deem it unnecessary to repeat our orders on this subject. But we cannot forbear expressing our resolution not to suffer the least deviation from them, and should you find that any of our servants or others under our protection shall have counteracted our intentions in respect to the general freedom of trade, you are forthwith to dismiss them the Company's service or withdraw our protection from such Europeans as are not in our service. At the same time we enjoin you to be attentive to the conduct of the natives concerned in such trade, and to use every means in your power to suppress all combinations and undue practices tending to enhance the price of the several articles thereof,

17. As salt is so important an object of the inland trade, we are highly displeased at your having neglected to give us a regular annual account of the quantity made throughout the provinces and the places where the same has been landed, conformable to our orders of 20th November, 1767. This, therefore, we expect you to do in future, and we further require you to transmit to us such an account for the several years which have passed since we signified our pleasure in this respect, that we may be enabled to judge what duties may be levied on that article without oppressing those whom it is our aim as well as desire to relieve.

18. Notwithstanding we observe that Mahomud Reza Cawn has complained of a monopoly of rice being carried on by other persons, we have received information that he himself, in the very height of the famine, has been guilty of great oppressions; that he has been guilty of stopping the merchants' boats, loaded with rice and other provisions intended for the supply of Muxadavad, and has forcibly compelled the owners to sell their rice to him at a price so cheap as from 25 to 30 *seers* per rupee, and re-sold it afterwards at the rate of 3 or 4 *seers* per rupee, and all other eatables in proportion; and that although it is affirmed this conduct of Mahomud Reza Cawn has operated in the destruction of many thousands of people, yet it has been overlooked by those in power, who ought to have prevented him from acting in a manner so inhumane and so very unworthy the station which he fills as *Naib Dewan* of the province of Bengal.

19. We have repeatedly directed you to enquire into the very large balances said to be due from Mahomud Reza Cawn on account of the Dacca revenues; and, upon the whole, nothing of consequence has been produced by our frequent orders on this subject. But after such a discovery of flagrant duplicity in Mahomud Reza Cawn, we cannot persuade ourselves that his bare assertion of having accounted for all the money collected ought to have the least credit with us. The unadjusted balances amount to a very large sum, and we are determined that either he shall prove to us that he did not collect the whole revenues, and what part was remitted, and to whom all abatements were specifically made, or refund to the Sircar all the balances due from the *chucla* of Dacca during the time he rented the revenues of that district.

20. When we expected that the influence and protection of the Company would have had such happy effects throughout the provinces of Bengal as would ensure to us a considerable increase in the revenues of the *Dewanny*, we cannot but be deeply affected to see ourselves disappointed in that reasonable expectation and to experience such a reverse as now appears by the great diminution of those revenues, particularly in the province of Bahar. Indeed, when we turn our view to the flourishing state of Burdwan and the encreasing revenue of that province under the immediate inspection of our servants, we cannot but conclude that the diminution of the *Dewanny* revenues must have been owing to the misconduct or malversation of those who have had the superintendency of the collections.

21. But as we have further reasons to suspect that large sums have, by violent and oppressive means, been actually collected by Mahomet Reza Cawn on account of the *Dewanny* revenues, great part of which he has appropriated to his own use or distributed amongst the creatures of his power and the

instruments of his oppressions, we should not think ourselves justified to the Company or the publick were we to leave to him in future the management of the *Dewanny* collections; and as the transferring the like trust to any other minister could yield us little prospect of reaping any benefit from the change, we are necessitated to seek by other means the full advantage we have to expect from the grant of the *Dewanny*. It is therefore our determination to stand forth as *Duan*, and by the agency of the Company's servants to take upon ourselves the entire care and management of the revenues. In confidence, therefore, of your abilities to plan and execute this important work, we hereby authorize and require you to divest Mahomet Reza Cawn and every person employed by or in conjunction with him or acting under his influence of any further charge or direction in the business of the collections; and we trust that in the office of *Duan* you will adopt such regulations and pursue such measures as shall at once ensure to us every possible advantage, and free the ryotts from the oppressions of zemindars and petty tyrants under which they may have been suffered to remain from the interested views of those whose influence and authority should have been exerted for their relief and protection.

22. From the grounds we have to suspect that Mahomet Reza Cawn has abused the trust reposed in him and been guilty of many acts of violence and injustice towards his countrymen, we deem insufficient the depriving him of a station which may be made subservient to the most corrupt purposes. It is therefore our pleasure and command that you enter into a minute investigation not only of the causes to which the decrease of revenue may be ascribed, but also into Mahomet Reza Cawn's general conduct during the time the *Dewanny* revenues have been under his charge. And as the several complaints and accusations already noticed to you are of a nature too serious to be suffered to pass over without the most rigid enquiry, we have directed our President to order him to repair to Calcutta, there to answer to the facts which shall be alleged against him, both in respect to his publick administration and private conduct. And while we enjoin you to pursue your researches with unremitting care and attention, we expect you to obtain not only a just and adequate restitution of all sums which may have been withheld from the *Circar* or the Company, either by embezzlement or collusion, but also the redress of such injuries as individuals may have sustained by the exercise of his power or the effects of his avarice.

23. As such appearances of corrupt practices in the administration of Mahomet Reza Cawn leave us room to apprehend that he may have been equally unfaithful in the discharge of the trust he held under the Nabob, we further direct that you make a full and strict enquiry concerning the application of the large sums which have passed through his hands on account of the annual stipends paid to successive Nabobs in consequence of the treaty in 1765 for the maintenance of their family; and the charge of sepoy for the support of their dignity; and if it shall appear that any part thereof has not been duly accounted for by him, we require you to demand and receive for the benefit of the *Circar* the amount of all such sums as he may have withheld or applied to his own separate use.

24. Though we have not a doubt but that by the exertion of your abilities and the care and assiduity of our servants in the superintendency of

the revenues, the collections will be conducted with more advantage to the Company and ease to the natives than by means of a *Naib Duan*, we are fully sensible of the expediency of supporting some ostensible Minister in the Company's interest at the Nabob's court to transact the political affairs of the *Circar*, and interpose between the Company and the subjects of any European power in all cases wherein they may thwart our interest or encroach on our authority. And as Mahomet Reza Cawn can no longer be considered by us as one to whom such a power can safely be committed, we trust to your local knowledge the selection of some person well-qualified for the affairs of Government, and of whose attachment to the Company you shall be well assured. Such person you will recommend to the Nabob to succeed Mahomet Reza as Minister of the Government and guardian of the Nabob's minority; and we persuade ourselves that the Nabob will pay such regard to your recommendation as to invest him with the necessary power and authority.

25. As the advantages which the Company may receive from the appointment of such Minister will depend on his readiness to promote our views and advance our interest, we are willing to allow him so liberal a gratification as may excite his zeal and ensure his attachment to the Company. We therefore empower you to grant to the person whom you shall think worthy of this trust an annual allowance not exceeding 3 lacks of rupees, which we consider not only as a munificent reward for any services he shall render the Company but sufficient to enable him to support his station with suitable rank and dignity. And here we must add that in the choice you shall make of a person to be the active Minister of the Nabob's Government, we hope and trust that you will shew yourselves worthy of the confidence we have placed in you by being actuated therein by no other motives than those of the publick good and the safety and interest of the Company.

26. As the disbursements of the sums allotted to the Nabob for the maintenance of his household and family and the support of his dignity will pass through the hands of the Minister who shall be selected by you conformable to our preceding orders, we expect that you will require such Minister to deliver annually to your Board a regular and exact account of the application of the several sums paid by the Company to the Nabob. This you will strictly examine; and we trust that you will not suffer any part of the Nabob's stipend to be appropriated to the Minister's own use or wasted among the unnecessary dependants of the court, but that the whole amount be applied to the purposes for which it was assigned by us.

27. Having from various important considerations thought it proper to recall the Members of Council from your several subordinate factories and to restrict their residence to Calcutta, we signified our pleasure in this respect in our letter to our Commissioners, dated the 23d March, 1770; and having authorized and directed you to open our several letters under their address, it is unnecessary for us to recapitulate the instructions contained therein. We however take this occasion to explain ourselves more fully on that part of them which directs that on the removal of the members of your Board from the chiefships of the several subordinates, those stations should be filled by our servants below Council.

28. However desirous we are that our servants should succeed to superior stations according to priority in the service in all cases where the same can



be observed without prejudice to the interests of the Company, it is not our meaning that seniority alone should entitle them to enjoy such posts as require not only an undoubted integrity but also a competent degree of ability and attention. And as in this light we must consider the chief management of our affairs at your subordinates, we leave to your judgement to appoint to the respective Residencies such of our servants as may be most likely to promote our interest in the trust to be committed to them.

29. We cannot more effectually testify our disapprobation of monopolies of every kind than we have done in the beforementioned letter of 23d March. As you are in possession of that letter, we refer you thereto for full information and for your guidance on this subject. And should you have reason to believe that the Residents of your subordinate factories or any others under your Presidency have monopolized any branch of trade in the districts where they have presided contrary to our pleasure signified on this point, we hereby direct that you enter into a strict and impartial enquiry into their conduct, and should they appear to have infringed the rights of others in pursuit of their own advantage, you are forthwith to suspend them the Company's service and transmit to us by the first opportunity full and particular information in respect to all such offences for our ultimate decision thereupon.

30. At a time when the immediate and indispensable occasions of the Company required you to retrench every article of expence which was not absolutely necessary for transacting our general concerns, we are surprized to find you could suffer the charges of your subordinate factories to encrease to the degree in which they now appear. Whatever may have been the pretence for a dissipation of so great a part of our necessary resources, we find ourselves constrained to interpose our authority for the prevention of an evil which is become intolerable to us. And as we have reason to believe that large sums have been expended for the gratification of private vanity under a pretence of supporting the rank the Company holds in the empire of Indostan, we can no longer permit that mistaken notion to operate to the detriment of our true and essential interests.

31. We, therefore, hereby direct that our servants below Council who are, in future, to act as Chiefs of your several factories be considered as Residents only, and we strictly prohibit the indulgence of any parade and expence in the exercise of such office, enjoining our servants not to assume to themselves any consequence in the eyes of the natives, but leave to our President and Council to support, by a judicious choice of measures, that dignity and influence it may be requisite for us to maintain.

32. We, therefore, expect and require you to be attentive to the conduct of our servants who shall be appointed Residents at your subordinates, and if any of them shall appear to have acted contrary to our pleasure (which you are to signify to them in this respect) and involved us in any expence not absolutely necessary for carrying on our commercial concerns, we require you to suspend such persons our service, and inform us of the nature and extent of their offences that they may receive from us such further punishment as their disobedience shall deserve.

33. As the necessity of being informed of the particulars of every charge incurred at your subordinate factories is increased by our resolution to retrench



every ostentatious expence, we again enjoin you to forward to us annually not only the General Books of each factory but the *Buxey's* account and all such subsidiaries as contain the particulars of their several charges. And you must give the most positive orders that our servants at the several subordinates do not fail to specify even the most minute articles of those disbursements which compose the heads of charges of each factory.

34. We are sorry to find that the orders we have so repeatedly given you for your transmitting to us a regular series of the General Books of your subordinates since the capture of Calcutta should have had no other effect than engaging you to forward to us by the ships of last year those of Patna from 1764. But as we shall not be satisfied until you have complied with those orders to the full extent, we expect and require you not only to compleat the series of Patna Books, but to send us also those of your other subordinates which have been withheld from us. At the same time we must apprise you that should you omit to do so by the returning ships of the ensuing season, we shall consider it as an act of wilful disobedience on your part, since the authority you have over our servants in their several stations makes you responsible to us for any such omission. And as we are weary of continual reprehension on the same subject, we hope you will not, by any further delay, constrain us to testify our displeasure in such a manner as is due to a manifest disregard of our positive and repeated commands.

35. The surprize and indignation we felt on the first intimation of your intentions to open your treasury for sums to be received for draughts on the Court of Directors at a rate of exchange different from our precise and positive orders in this respect are increased to such a degree on finding to what extent you have presumed to violate those orders that we want words to express our resentment at the conduct of such of our servants as have thus manifested a total disregard to the credit and interest of the Company, when the convenience and benefit of individuals were in competition with it.

36. We have indeed so fully apprized you in our letters of 27th June, 1770, and 10th April, 1771, in what light we should consider every deviation from our orders respecting bills of exchange that it is altogether unnecessary for us to enforce them by a repetition of commands which have avowedly been-counteracted. We, however, take this occasion to repeat the resolution we have taken to make our servants accountable to us for all the ill effect which may result from their disobedience in a point of so important a nature. And here we think proper to advise you that in consequence of such resolution, we shall forthwith form a calculate of the loss and damage which the Company may sustain by the unwarrantable conduct of our servants who have presumed to infringe our authority and deviate from the terms we had prescribed for remittances through the Company's cash; and whatever loss shall appear to arise from the mode adopted by our servants in opposition to our orders, we shall expect and require them to make good to the Company in their joint or separate capacities.

37. Captain Philip Affleck, the drawer of a bill of exchange in favor of the Governor and Council of Chandernagore for a sum equal to one moiety of the Navy Donation, has made a formal application to us demanding payment of a penalty of 10 per cent, which you have wantonly and most unjustifi-

ably, engaged to pay to the agents for the navy in Calcutta by way of damages for non-payment of the above mentioned bill, and we have found ourselves under a necessity for the honor of the Company to inform Captain Affleck that the said penalty shall be paid in Bengal in the manner to be agreed upon between him and the French Comptroller General or the agents of the French Company agreeably to your said stipulation.

38. But although we thought ourselves bound to fulfil this engagement of our Governor and Council in which the honor of the Company seems to us most essentially at stake, yet we do not consider ourselves warranted to sacrifice so much of the Company's property as must be given up, were we thus to pass over an affair which is of so singular and extraordinary a nature that we believe the Company's records do not furnish a transaction equal to it.

39. After observing that the assertion in the agent's letter of the 2d January, 1770, that a penalty of ten per cent was annexed to the non-payment of the bill is void of all truth and foundation, we find so far were our Governor and Council from requiring satisfaction in this matter, which from the largeness of the sum appeared to deserve a very serious investigation; that, on the contrary, they instantly and spontaneously offered to pay this heavy penalty. Nay more; they, as readily, and also unrequested, did, besides, agree to allow the claimants an interest of 8 per cent upon the principal sum, which together with the penalty amounts to no less than 18 per cent for 10 months, and all this, as we are told, is done by way of *distressing the French*. We have no doubt but the French might suffer inconvenience for want of the money; but we have as little doubt that they might have supplied themselves with a much greater sum on easier terms than were thus voluntarily offered.

40. The dishonor we suffer in being thus called upon for payment of this penalty and scandalized as parties in a transaction of this nature is no small mortification to us; but though this cannot now be avoided, yet, in order to convince our servants that such a shameful disregard to our orders and to the interests of the Company shall not be permitted with impunity, we do hereby direct that after satisfaction shall have been made to the French agreeably to the assurance given by us to Captain Affleck the money be immediately reimbursed to our treasury by Mr. Cartier, Mr. Russell, Mr. Floyer, Mr. Hare and Mr. Jekyll, being the members of our Council who were present on the 16th of January, 1770, and agreed to the payment of this penalty whenever it should be applied for, a resolution totally repugnant both to the letter and spirit of our orders on this head. If the state of our treasury was such as made this payment, though ordered positively and without reserve, impracticable or imprudent, which we are far from seeing cause to believe, shall we be told that there was no possibility of borrowing such a sum at interest for less than 18 per cent for 10 months? Then why was it that a compliment of 10 per cent of this Company's money was to be made to the French East India Company, attended with this peculiar circumstance, of its being offered without being asked, and under colour of indemnifying men against a penalty which, by a proper examination by you, it would have appeared they were never subject to?

41. So unwarrantable is this conduct in our eyes and so worthy of our indignation that we do expressly order, in case any of our said Council who

subscribed to the aforesaid resolution shall refuse or neglect to contribute his proper share of this indemnification to the Company for this notorious breach of duty, that he or they be forthwith, and we do declare them actually, dismissed the service, and rendered for ever incapable of holding any employment under the Company. At the same time, we think ourselves bound to express our satisfaction with the conduct of Mr. Barwell, the junior member of your Board, who had the good sense and resolution to enter his dissent against these proceedings. We shall only repeat that upon this subject the orders of the Court of Directors were explicit and left you no discretion or latitude to deviate or depart from them. Your promise in consequence of those orders to the agents in August 1769, had you any doubts of the Company's ability to discharge the moiety of the donation at the end of the year, ought not to have been made in positive and direct terms. What could have happened in the course of four months to prevent totally the effect of your promise which might not in some degree have been foreseen, or at least apprehended, at the time it was made? But whether so or not, why was not your engagement which induced the agents to accept the bill circumspectly and cautiously conveyed? In short, it exceeds our patience to spend more time in the condemnation of a measure which, in our opinion, is void of every pretence to honor, duty, reason or justice.

42. In order effectually to enforce our aforementioned resolution, as it may happen that some of our said Council may have withdrawn themselves from our service before this letter will reach you or may think fit so to do on being apprized of its contents, it is our further positive order that you do immediately attach their effects without favor or affection as for a debt due to the Company and as being at the same time, as we conceive, the most efficacious method to obtain the satisfaction we require, in which proceeding we will support you with our utmost power, being resolved to stamp this notorious breach of duty with that degree of resentment which it justly deserves.

43. While we were in full expectation of reaping all the advantages we had in prospect from the acquisition of the *Dewanny* revenues, and which were become the more essential to us from our compact with the publick<sup>2</sup> for a participation of those revenues, how greatly must we be alarmed at seeing the *Duanny* collections scarce answering any other purpose than defraying the civil and military charges of our Presidency of Bengal? Indeed, nothing [but] the most unhappy experience could have led us to suppose that the amount of those revenues would have not been sufficient both for the charges of your Presidency and supplying us with annual investments equal to our engagements with the publick, the expectations of the proprietors, the provision of exports, and every other demand to which the Company is subjected. But what must be our surprize to find that the collective amount of our revenues in Bengal are so far from yielding us returns adequate to our indispensable occasions that a considerable part of your consignments of the present year has been purchased by interest notes given for the amount, notwithstanding you have received into your treasury for draughts on the Court of Directors sums equal to the whole of those consignments?

44. Whatever may have been the causes which have brought on such effects, the consequences are equally alarming to us; and as we learn from

your late advices that the decrease of revenues and the increase of charges will not permit us to hope a speedy remedy for the evils with which we are threatened, we cannot but turn our view to the commission which we have permitted to be drawn on your nett territorial revenues. And should we continue to experience that your resources are inadequate to the expectations we had formed of them, we shall find ourselves under a necessity to withhold from our servants those gratuitous rewards which we were induced to grant them in the full and reasonable hope that their care and attention would ensure to the Company all the advantages expected from the possession of the *Dewanny*.

45. It is with the most serious concern we learn from your late advices that the incursions of the Marattas had spread such a terror and despondence into the minds of those powers which were the remoter barrier of our possessions that the irresolution and timidity of the most potent of them have given rise to such successes as have encouraged the Marattas to invade the dominions of the King and lay claim to a part of the territory of Sujah Dowlah. But the conduct of the Rohillaes and Jauts is rather a matter of concern than surprize to us as the King and Sujah Dowlah neglected that occasion to unite with those powers effectually to repel the common disturbers of the empire and confine them within the limits of their former possessions. To whatever causes this general timidity or supineness may have been owing, we find ourselves equally affected and the tranquility of the provinces endangered thereby ; but as the projects of the King or the conduct of the Vizier are at present too mysterious for us to decide on the motives of their inactivity, and as we know not what alliances may be formed to justify us in carrying our arms beyond the bounds of their dominions, we are prevented from proposing any precise plan for your guidance in this respect. But, should your subsequent advices enable us to form a more certain judgment of the expediency of departing from the plan we have laid down, we shall communicate to you by some early conveyance how far we may be disposed to carry our arms beyond the bounds of the provinces or the territories of our allies and become the parties in an offensive war. In the meantime we trust that your sole objects will be the security of our possessions and those of the powers with whom we are connected, both by treaty and interest. And, as this appears to have been the guide of your conduct upon the Marattas invading the province of Korah, we with pleasure approve the measures you have taken for defending the dominions of the King and Vizier from their inroads and depredations, more especially as those measures are not only justified by necessity but are within the line which we have prescribed for your conduct in such a conjuncture.

46. It affords us great satisfaction to find that the succession of the late Bulwand Sing's son to the zemindary of Benares met with no opposition from the Vizier. We cannot doubt but you will carefully improve an event to the accomplishment whereof you have so greatly contributed. As we cannot but commend your proceedings on this occasion, so are we happy in another opportunity of testifying our entire approbation of Captain Gabriel Harper, from whose abilities and attention to his duty in his critical situation we have already declared that we hope for the most beneficial consequences. We therefore direct that you signify to Captain Harper the sense we have of his past conduct and the high expectations we entertain from his future services ; and



it is with pleasure we observe that you are so fully sensible of the benefit the Company may receive from his residence at the court of Sujah Dowla that we cannot doubt of your continuing him in his present station so long as any advantages can be derived from his abilities and the zeal he has discovered for the Company's welfare.

47. The friends of Mr. Forbes having represented to us the ill state of his health, the necessity he is under of returning to his native country for recovery of it, and applied to us for our license for that purpose, we observing that the extent of the Company's demand from any papers in our possession does not appear to exceed £5,000, have accepted their bond of indemnity for £10,000 to make good upon demand to the Company all such sums of money and costs as shall be recovered against him by the Company in the Mayor's Court of Calcutta, or by any suit or legal proceeding at the Company's suit; and, therefore, we direct that upon receipt hereof you consent on our behalf in the Mayor's Court that Mr. Forbes return by the first conveyance to Europe, without prosecuting his bail or sureties there for a breach of the *ne exeat regno*. But, in that case, you will certify to us judicially under seal of the Mayor's Court a copy of the judgment or decree against him, if any has been or shall hereafter be obtained in favor of the Company. You are also to understand that this permission to return home is by no means intended to put a stop to any suit or prosecution against Mr. Forbes for recovering any demand of the Company against him, but the same must be prosecuted to a final decision in the same manner as if this order had never been issued; and we do moreover declare that it is not in any wise to affect or stop the course of justice in any suits that may be depending against him by private creditors in which we are noways concerned.

48. Since writing the foregoing, we have received by the *Worcester* your General Letters in the Public and Secret Departments of the 12th, and postscript in that of the Public Department of the 27th February, and of the Select Committee, dated 16th February. And, although the time will not permit us at present to enter upon the consideration of those advices, yet we cannot pass unnoticed the new appointments made by you and advised in the 52d and 54th paragraphs of the General Letter, and we do once for all assure you that as we will entirely reserve to ourselves the power of establishing new posts and of conferring gratuitous rewards on those of our servants whose length of service or extra diligence in duty may mark them out as proper objects of our beneficence, so we shall invariably disapprove your conduct when you presume to act contrary to our pleasure hereby signified. It is your duty to represent to us what measures you may deem necessary and for the good of the Company and to communicate to us your opinion thereupon; it is incumbent upon you to encourage the diligent. But this must be by recommending them and stating their merit to the Court of Directors, who will then judge of the propriety of extending extra benevolence in a service which regularly and very amply reward those that engage therein.

49. For the reasons above set forth we disallow the salary and emoluments granted to Messrs. Higginson, Dean and Bowey, and we order and direct that they do immediately repay into our treasury all sums which they may have received in consequence of your indulgence, and in default thereof that those who were present when the order was established do refund the



same to us directly ; and this our order you are to consider as absolute, from which we shall on no account depart, and to govern yourselves accordingly.

50. The Court of Directors having been advised by the opinions of the most eminent counsel in this kingdom that the office of an Alderman of the Mayor's Court of Calcutta to which Mr. William Bolts was ordered to be restored upon an appeal to His Majesty in Council is *according to the Charter of Justice* become vacant, you are hereby directed forthwith to proceed, according to the said Charter, to the choice of a fit and proper person to fill up the said vacancy in the place and stead of the said Mr. William Bolts.

We are,

Your loving friends,

J. Purling / Geo. Dudley / Heny.  
Savage / Fredk. Pigou / L. Sullivan / J.  
Manship / Ja. Cockburn / Wm. James /  
Peter Du Cane Junr. / Jno. Michie /  
Daniel Wier / George Cuming / Richd.  
Bosanquet / Edwd. Wheler / J. Hur-  
lock / John Roberts / Joshua Smith /  
John Harrison.

London,  
the 28th August, 1771

### *Postscript*

The letters herein enclosed relating to transactions in Bengal are publicly printed in the common London newspapers of this week. The substance of them, if they are genuine, is of so much importance to the interest of the Company that we can hardly conceive it possible you should omit to furnish us with such material intelligence, and more especially as the letter referred to is represented to be a publick record by way of exhibit in the Mayor's Court of Calcutta. If such suit exists, and indeed in all suits wherein the interest or honor of the Company are concerned, whether the Company are parties to them or not, we desire you will constantly transmit to us the earliest intelligence and authenticated copies of the proceedings from the Court, and we expect also that you will make the fullest enquiry respecting the transactions contained in these papers and communicate to us your sentiments thereon.

The further instance you have given us of your disobedience to our commands in the drafts you made on us by the *Worcester* constrains us to add to what we have already written on the subject of bills of exchange, that you are on no account or pretence whatever to issue in future bills on us for more than the amount of £100,000 payable in one year exclusive of Lord Clive's *jaghire* and certificates to commanders and officers of ships and at the rate of exchange expressed in our orders in 1769 by the *Lapwing*. You are to consider our orders on this point as positive, and on no account to deviate therefrom, for we are determined you shall be answerable to us for all consequences which may ensue from our refusing to accept such bills as shall not be drawn in conformity to our present commands.

Nevertheless, if any persons should choose to pay in money to be sent to China for bills on us payable in three years according to the terms formerly

prescribed per *Lapwing*, you may in that case, and in that only, receive cash to any amount and issue bills on us accordingly.

London,  
29th August, 1771.  
(Per *Lapwing* and *Greenwich*)

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
J. Purling / Geo. Dudley / L. Sullivan /  
Fredk. Pigou / Heny. Savage / John  
Harrison / Daniel Wier / Wm. James /  
J. Hurlock / George Cuming / Jno.  
Michie / Rd. Bosanquet / Edwd. Whe-  
ler / Joshua Smith / John Roberts / J.  
Manship / Ja. Cockburn.

17

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 18 DECEMBER 1771

*Information about shipping and cargo for India and China, and other trade matters—military personnel shipped to India—fresh commissions to military officers appointed by the Court not to be issued at Calcutta—membership of Revenue Councils raised from 4 to 5—Fort William Government censured for its orders in respect of Capt. Affleck's bill of exchange.*

### OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1. By the *Lapwing* snow we wrote to you under date the 28th and postscript of 29th August, duplicate and triplicate of which we send by the *Nottingham* and *Greenwich*. We also transmit by the *Nottingham's* packet copy of our letter of the 10th April and triplicate of our letter of the 12th June.

2. The advices we have received from the several departments since the *Lapwing's* sailing are as follow—

General Letter in the Public Department 2d April, and	Received per
postsript of 12th.	<i>Mansfield</i>
Do. in the Secret Department do. do.	30 October 1771.
Do. from the Select Committee 31st March.	

3. Many delays and inconveniences having been experienced by our packets from India being made up improperly, we therefore direct that in future all your paper packets to us, together with the private letters, be enclosed in such packages as may be portable in one or more post chaises, to be accompanied by the person who may be charged therewith from the place they may be landed at in Great Britain, and that your books be ordered to be sent up to us immediately on the ships coming into the river Thames.

4. We have already informed you of our having entertained 25 ships for the Company's service; but since giving that information, we have thought proper also to take up the ships *Lord Camden*, Captain John Reddall, and *Earl of Sandwich*, Captain Charles Deane, and to consign the former to St. Helena and China, and the latter to St. Helena and Bencoolen in the room of the

*Earl of Middlesex*, which ship, although entertained as before advised, had since been found to be quite unfit for service. The *Royal Henry*, Captain Rous, is ordered to proceed to Madeira, Coast and China instead of Bombay as before noticed, and the new ship, Captain Hamilton, is to go to Bombay in her stead. We have also ordered the *Anson*, Captain Lennox, to proceed to Coast and China in the room of the *Duke of Grafton*, Captain Samuel Bull, which ship is consigned to Coast and Bay.

5. By letters lately received from France, an account is brought by the French ship *Triton*, which sailed from Mauritius the 27th April, of the unfortunate loss of the ship *Verelst* the 25th of that month on the rocks of the Amber Islands near the coast of Mauritius. No advices of this unhappy event are come to us immediately from the commander or others belonging to that ship, but we are given to understand that great part of the crew has been saved and that there are hopes part of the cargo will be recovered.

6. As by the beforementioned accident we are deprived of the book and paper packets which were on board the *Verelst*, we now send by the *Nottingham* a list of such books and papers the duplicate whereof were not received by the *Worcester*, and we direct that copies of them be made as expeditiously as possible and sent by the first opportunity.

7. Notwithstanding we have consigned seven ships this season to the Coast and Bay, yet there cannot be a doubt but you and our servants on the Coast will have more than ample provision for their return to us with full, if not surplus, tonnage the season of their arrival; and the more so as we shall expect to receive two thousand five hundred tons of saltpetre from all parts of India, agreeable to the directions sent last season, which with the surplus tonnage, if any, must be equally distributed on each ship.

8. And being persuaded that the tranquillity of affairs and the state of our treasuries at Bengal and Fort St. George will admit of more than seven ships being laden home from Coast and Bay, we shall direct our servants at Bombay to send two ships from thence to Bengal or the Coast in order to be laden home from one or both of those places.

9. You will also find by the list of ships that only twelve are to proceed from hence to China, exclusive of the *London* expected to arrive there in 1772 from Bombay. Your assistance to this branch of our commerce will consequently be lessened when compared with that required from you last year, and it is necessary you should be acquainted with the provision we have made and calculated upon for the purchase of the China cargoes of the said thirteen ships which is as follows.—

Silver from hence this year . . . . .	£205,000
Woollen goods and lead . . . . .	153,900
Balance in China as ordered . . . . .	150,000
London's cargo from Malabar Coast . . . . .	40,000
Pepper from the West Coast . . . . .	39,000
Indian goods from Fort St. George . . . . .	50,000
Bills of exchange as in 1770 . . . . .	98,500
	<hr/>
	£756,400[sic]
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10. From the above calculation you will see that on allowing £45,000 for the amount of each of the thirteen ships' cargoes from China, there will remain as a surplus stock for those of the ensuing season about £151,400.

11. We have continued our orders for the China Council to receive into cash for bills to be drawn by the ships consigned thither this season to the amount of £20,000, payable at 365 days sight and at 5s. 6d. for each weighty dollar.

12. The gentlemen we have appointed to manage our affairs in China for the season of 1772, and as Residents there in 1773, are Messrs. Alexander Hume, Edward Phipps, Francis Wood, William Rous, Thomas Bevan, William Harrison, Matthew Raper, John Bradby Blake, James Bradshaw, William Henry Pigou and George Rogers.

13. We permitted Mr. William Lindsay to take passage on the snow *Lap-wing* to be employed as a volunteer in your pilot service, and he is to receive all fitting encouragement, having served in the station of Chief Mate on board one of our freighted ships.

14. We have also appointed Mr. John Lee who takes passage on the *Nottingham* to be a volunteer in your pilot service, and he is to be employed therein in such a manner as may fully answer the purpose of our sending him.

15. The principal articles of our intended export to India and China this season will be as follow.—

*For Bengal*

Cloth 677 bales; long ells 54 bales; broad long ells of ten pieces each 93 bales; flannel 100 pieces for cartridges; 100 tons of lead; 50 tons of iron; 50 tons of copper; gunpowder 170 barrels to be sent on the Coast and China ships, 360 on the Bombay ships and 770 barrels on the Coast and Bay ships.

*For Fort St. George*

Cloth 968 bales; long ells 25 bales; lead 50 tons; copper 100 tons; iron 50 tons, and 12 tons of steel; gunpowder 1,000 barrels of 60 lb. each.

*For Bombay*

Cloth 1,328 bales; long ells 102 bales; lead 100 tons; flannel 1 bale for cartridges; copper 250 tons.

*For Bussorah*

Long ells 200 bales of ten pieces each.

*For Fort Marlborough*

Iron 20 tons; steel 50 tons, gunpowder 50 barrels, flour 30 tons, cordage 31 tons, small arms 25 chests.

16. You must continue to assist our Presidency at Fort Marlborough by complying with their indents to the utmost of your power as it is impossible for us to supply them so fully as their necessities require.

17. The *Triton*, Captain William Elphinstone, and *Greenwich*, Captain Robert Carr, are ordered to call at Madeira for the 200 pipes of wine which we have directed our correspondents there to lade equally on those ships for the use of your Presidency, out of which quantity you must not fail to send ten pipes to our servants at Fort Marlborough.

18. We have appointed Mr. John Mordaunt who proceeds on the *Nottingham* to be a cadet at your Presidency with the rank assigned to Mr. Robert Gold, who declined going in the list dated 8th May, 1771, sent per *Colebrooke* and *Lord Holland*.

19. We have also appointed forty-six cadets for your military this season, several of whom proceed on the ships now under dispatch as will appear by the lists of military in the packets, and they are to rank agreeably to lists which we shall forward to you by some future conveyance.

20. Being well informed that it is an established custom in India for the several military officers who are appointed by us and in consequence have commissions from us here under the Company's seal to be compelled upon their arrival in India to receive new commissions from our Presidents and Councils there, and as such custom is not only derogatory from the credit and authority of the commissions given by us but attended with a very unnecessary expence to such officers, we hereby positively forbid the continuance of such practice, and direct that the officers whom we may think proper to appoint in England do always take rank in our forces abroad according to the orders we shall give you from time to time for that purpose.

21. Major Alexander Mackenzie, who came to England with your permission for the recovery of his health, (which being effected) returns to his duty by the way of Fort St. George in the *Earl of Lincoln*. On his arrival in Bengal he is to resume the rank he held at the time of his coming away in January 1770, being next under Major John Tottingham.

22. Observing that our Moorshedabad Council consists only of four members, and that by the casting voice of the Chief an improper majority may be formed, we direct that you add another member to the said Council, and that both at Moorshedabad and at Patna, our Councils of Revenue do, in future, consist of not less than five persons; and it is our pleasure that no important regulations do ever take place until they shall have been first concurred in and fully approved by the majority of our said Councils respectively either at Moorshedabad or at Patna.

23. By our orders to the Commissioners we signified our pleasure that our several committees at the Presidency should consist only of four persons each. But, as we have thought proper since the date of those advices to make a very considerable addition to the number then appointed to compose our Council, we now direct that each respective committee do consist of five members of our Council, and that no orders be conveyed to any of the persons under the direction of each committee respectively until such orders shall have been first approved in committee by three or more of the said members of Council, appointed to form such committee.



24. By our letter of the 28th August last you will observe in what light we considered your conduct in having engaged to indemnify the agents for the Navy Donation in Calcutta for non-payment of the first moiety thereof, for which Captain Affleck, attorney to the claimants, had passed a bill of exchange in favor of the Governor and Council of Chandernagore.

25. The resentment we conceived on your precipitate and unjustifiable engagement is greatly encreased by finding ourselves involved in a heavy expence on account of another bill of exchange drawn for the second moiety of the said Donation, for we must remark that the measures which you have taken with the agents in Calcutta respecting the discharge of the 2nd moiety will no more acquit you of blame than free us from the necessity of complying with those expectations which the drawer of the bill for the second moiety formed on the promise you gave to the agents to indemnify them from damages in respect to the bill of exchange for the first moiety of the Navy Donation.

26. And, therefore, as your misconduct and disregard to our orders left us without any other relief than what we could obtain by terms of accommodation, we consented to pay to the order of Captain Affleck the damages said to have been incurred for non-payment of the bill passed by him for the second moiety of the said Donation, upon condition that Captain Affleck would in behalf of the claimants enter into a covenant to repay to the Company the amount of such interest as might become due upon the notes which you have issued in discharge of the 2nd moiety from 1st January, 1771, to the time they may be exchanged for draughts on the Court of Directors, provided such interest do not amount to more than 10 per cent on the principal of the said notes.

27. And, as in consequence of this agreement Captain Affleck has signed a proper instrument for the purpose, our Secretary hath by our order drawn on you two bills of exchange each for current rupees 72,500, payable at 30 days sight to the order of Philip Affleck Esqr., being the amount of damages said to have been incurred by non-payment of the two bills of exchange drawn by Captain Affleck for the first and second moiety of the Navy Donation; and we hereby direct that the said bills of exchange for C. Rs. 72,500 each drawn by our Secretary be duly honored and punctually discharged.

28. By the present conveyance you will receive a letter under our seal addressed to our President Warren Hastings Esqr., which is to be delivered to him only, and therefore, in case of his decease, the same is to be returned to us unopened.

We are,  
Your loving friends,

J. Purling/Geo. Dudley/Fredk. Pigou/  
John Roberts / J. Hurlock / Henry  
Fletcher / Jno. Woodhouse / Wm.  
James / Jno. Michie / Daniel Wier /  
Edwd. Wheler / Peter Du Cane Junr. /  
Joshua Smith / Robt. George / John  
Harrison / J. Manship / George Cum-  
ing / L. Sullivan / Heny. Savage.

London,  
18th December, 1771  
(Per Nottingham,  
Quadruplicate per Anson)

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1772

*Appointment of pilots, writers, etc.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1. Since we wrote to you under date of the 18th December last, the ship *Duke of Portland* arrived at Plymouth from Bombay and Fort St. George the 10th instant.

2. You will receive this by the *Nassau, Prince of Wales, Duke of Albany* and *Duke of Grafton*, to which ships' packets you are referred for the particulars relating to your Presidency.

3. From the frequent complaints which have been made of the inability of persons acting as pilots in Bengal river, we have endeavoured this and the two last seasons to send out capable persons to be employed in the pilot service. Among those of this season is one Mr. Marshall, who has been a Third Mate of one of the Company's ships from hence. To this person as well as the others we expect every proper encouragement will be given, that particular care be taken to instruct them as expeditiously as possible in the navigation of the river and to employ them in such manner as will best suit with their respective abilities.

4. We have appointed the undermentioned gentlemen to be writers at your Presidency, and they are to rank in the following order *vizt.*, John Bazett, John Sykes, Richard Kenneway, William Wilkinson, Joseph Cator, Henry John Chandler, Thomas Calvert, William Larkins, Nathaniel Brassey Halhed, John Taylor, John Kinlock, Jonathan Duncan, Abraham Daking Ransom, Alexander Duncanson, Edward Ephraim Pote, Robert Bathurst, George Livius, Thomas Harris, Robert Holme, Thomas Broadhurst, Samuel Wildman, Hugh Austin, Claud Alexander, Robert Francis Cholmondley, Robert Lindsay, William Swainston, John Lloyd, William Haverkam, Richard Teasdale, Robert Gosling.

5. And as Messrs. Cator and Chandler are in Bengal we shall send their covenants to be executed, witnessed, and returned to us by the first opportunity.

6. As the above writers except Messrs. Cator and Chandler have severally executed the new covenants mentioned in our advices of last season by the *Colebrooke*, there will be no necessity for their entering into them on their arrival in Bengal, nor any other servants, either civil or military, whom we now or shall hereafter appoint to proceed from hence, or such as may be permitted to return to their stations.

7. Mr. James King, appointed a cadet for your Presidency last season but whose health prevented him from proceeding thither, now takes passage on

the *Nassau*, and is to rank agreeably to the list of cadets sent by the *Colebrooke* and *Lord Holland*, which was next below Mr. Duncan Campbell.

We are,  
Your loving friends,

London,  
15th January, 1772.  
(Per *Duke of Albany* and  
*Nassau*)

J. Purling / Geo. Dudley / Peter Du  
Cane Junr. / Ja. Cockburn / Joshua  
Smith / J. Manship / Rd. Bosanquet /  
Wm. James / J. Hurlock / Jno. Michie /  
Jno. Woodhouse / H. Fletcher / John  
Harrison / Edwd. Wheler.

## 19

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1772

*Shipping: measures to check misconduct of shipmasters such as deviating from the route laid down; setting up of a floating light on the Hooghly commended, but the consent of the other European companies in Bengal considered necessary for levying any duty—supply of goods to Bengal—silk investment: increase in the salaries of Italian artisans—danger from the French and appreciation of the arming of the European population in Calcutta—Burma: escape of Capt. Justice; Burmese King to be asked to surrender Dundas; need to have a settlement on the coast of Pegu—allotment of saltpetre to the Dutch and other European nations—buildings: extravagance and irregularities in the erection of cantonments at Berhampore; no new work to be taken up without previous sanction and the total expenditure on buildings, fortifications, &c. not to exceed £100,000—Supervisors not to be kept in the same charge for more than two years—Raja Durlabhram's succession to his father's jagir—service matters: Bengal Government censured for failure to reimburse its unauthorised payments in respect of the commission on revenue and for readmitting into service officers who had been dismissed; military officers proceeding to England to represent their grievances to be dismissed—alarm at the great increase in civil and military charges—pargana sepoys to form part of the regular army, different detachments of which were to be detailed on revenue duties by turns—affairs of the Society of Trade.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1. We have advised you in our letters of the 28th and 29th August,<sup>1</sup> 18th December and 22nd January last,<sup>2</sup> of such particulars as we deemed necessary for your early information, and we shall now give our instructions and observations on the general subjects of your letters and proceedings of the last year under the customary heads,

*First, of shipping*

2. Having permitted several persons to proceed to Bengal this season for our pilot service as well as some lads to be brought up in that employ, we send on these ships lists of them in the order they are to take precedence.

3. The disappointments and other inconveniences which have resulted from our ships making unnecessary deviations in their voyages outward oblige us to use every means in our power to put an end to a practice so detrimental to our interest. We therefore direct that, in future, on the arrival in Bengal of any of the Company's ships whose commanders shall have disobeyed our orders in deviating under any pretence from their consigned voyages, you do load and dispatch such ships directly to Europe so soon as a proper cargo can be got ready; and this you are to regard as a standing order, which is always to operate in such cases.

4. From the late misconduct of the commanders of our ships we have thought proper, and do hereby direct, that you observe it as a standing order that if any commander of our ships shall in future depart from any port in India without acquainting the Governor and Council of the condition of his ship, if she be leaky or otherwise disqualified for the service she may be intended for, and consulting them on the properest measures to be taken, he shall by that neglect be rendered incapable of serving the Company in future.

5. By our letter of the 18th December last we informed you that from our expectations of the treasuries in Bengal and at Fort St. George being able to provide for more than seven ships, we should direct our servants at Bombay to send two other ships from thence round to your Presidency or Fort St. George to be laden home. And as we have now agreed that the said two ships shall be the *Marquis of Rockingham* and *Hector*, we have accordingly directed our servants at Bombay, as soon after those ships arrive there as possible to lade them with proper cargoes of cotton or other goods and consign them to you to be laden home as before mentioned; but if they cannot both be dispatched home from the Coast or Bay, then the *Marquis of Rockingham* is to be returned from Bengal to Bombay with cargo of saltpetre or other goods or on a private freight (if not detained thereby) in order to receive a loading for England from the Malabar Coast; and in case either of the said ships should, from events as yet unforeseen, be disabled from performing the services before directed, our servants at Bombay are to send another ship in her room on receiving information from you or Fort St. George that such ship is wanted on your side of India.

6. And in case the *Royal Charlotte* shall by any unavoidable accident be prevented from proceeding to China, then it is our pleasure that the *Hector* do proceed thither in her stead.

7. The several instances we have lately experienced of the commanders of our freighted ships refusing to take in the quantities of goods tendered them on the Company's account by our Presidents and Councils in India make it necessary for us to direct that in future if any commander of our freighted ships consigned to your Presidency shall refuse to take in such a quantity of goods as you shall tender him on our account, to the amount at least of the stipulation in the charterparty, and which goods shall be ready to be shipped without



delaying his passage, you are not only to protest against such commander for damages, but must advise the Presidency whereto such goods were to be consigned of such refusal with all the circumstances attending it that they may pursue the positive standing order to ship only the charterparty loading, and not to put on board such ship any surplus tonnage for Europe.

8. Being sensible that placing a light to direct the passage of ships in and out of Bengal river must contribute to the security of the navigation and consequently be an encouragement to the trade of your port, we are pleased to find such a measure has been adopted as you judge will be conducive thereto, we mean the floating light which you have ordered to be erected at the fairway. And as we are desirous of promoting the commerce of Bengal to the utmost of our power, we recommend to you to consider how far the erecting of a lighthouse on Saugar Island would be beneficial to the trade of your Presidency. And in case you shall be of opinion that such security and advantages would thereby accrue to the trade of Bengal as would justify levying a tax on all ships and vessels passing in and out of the river, you will communicate to the agents of the European nations who have settlements in Bengal our desire to carry such a design into execution, and inform them that we are disposed to be at any reasonable expence upon a proper plan being concerted between you, and a stipulation entered into on their part that the ships and vessels of their respective nations shall be subject to such a duty as it may be necessary to levy on those belonging to your Presidency, and which must be rated on the tonnage of all ships and vessels whatsoever.

9. The necessity of the concurrence of the European agents is too obvious to need any explanation, and as the proposed lighthouse must contribute to the benefit of their navigation as well as that of your Presidency, we cannot entertain a doubt of their consenting to the plan suggested to you. But if from particular circumstances the subject of any European power in Bengal should not be authorized to submit their trade to an impost of this kind, you will do well to consider whether, even with their consent, it would be adviseable for you to apply to the Nabob to establish by his authority such a duty to be collected on all shipping as would indemnify us for the expences which might be incurred on this account. For you are to observe that however great you may consider the advantages which would accrue to the trade of your port from the erecting a lighthouse on Saugur Island, we cannot admit of your carrying the same into execution by any means which can be deemed an act of power or an infringement of the rights of any nation whatsoever.

10. We have been informed that George Owen, who went from hence Third Mate of the *Harcourt* ran from that ship at Batavia. Should he come to Bengal you are not to fail sending him to England as an unlicensed person.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

11. We have in general very fully complied with your indents for medicines agreeable to your earnest request.

12. Your indent for ordnance and ordnance stores has been attentively considered, and such articles are sent as we judged you might stand in need of; but in case we should not have proportioned the quantities to your wants,

it is owing to your having omitted sending this year, as usual, a general account of the remains of ordnance and ordnance stores, whereby we were deprived of the most material information for our determination as to the requisite supplies, and were without any other guide than the account of what articles were sent on the ships of last season, together with the general return of ordnance and ordnance stores last received, dated 31st October, and which it cannot be supposed furnished any material assistance from the many alterations which must have been made therein since that period.

13. We have sent two hundred and twenty barrels of the gunpowder for your Presidency round by the way of Bombay, and have directed our President and Council there to forward them to you by the first good conveyance.

14. In addition to the information we gave you in the 11th paragraph of our letter of the 18th December last in respect to the rates we have prescribed for receiving money into our treasury at Canton, we hereby acquaint you that we have permitted our supracargoes there to receive into our cash sums to any amount, for which they are to draw bills upon us at the rate of five shillings and six pence for each weighty dollar, payable at ninety days sight with liberty of extending the term of payment to 365 days, allowing an interest of £3 per cent per annum from the expiration of the first ninety days.

15. Finding it necessary to make some alterations in respect to the privilege allowed our civil servants and field officers in India of having necessities sent them on our ships from hence, we have come to a resolution that after the season no writer is to be allowed to have any wine sent out to him, but that he be indulged with a box of necessities not exceeding in measurement the sixth part of a ton, and that no wine will be allowed to be sent out to any persons in India but by their relations or attornies, and such persons must produce a fresh order every year empowering them to make such request.

16. As our captains frequently make a plea that the deficiencies in wine are occasioned by lying a considerable time in the Company's godown and not by any leakage or bad stowage in the voyage, in order therefore to obviate such plea in future, you must cause all wines landed from our ships to be gauged as soon as possible after they are brought on shore, taking care that the commander be called upon to send an officer belonging to his ship to attend the gauging, and such officer must sign the account thereof with the Company's Cooper.

### *Thirdly, of investment*

17. Herewith you will receive the list of investment to be provided for the ships proceeding to your Presidency this season, to which you must pay the same obedience as if inserted in this letter.

18. Being desirous that you should receive every assistance possible for improving your raw silk we have sent on the *Duke of Grafton* a complete frame and reel with bason for winding silk according to the most approved method at present practised in Italy, and in the packet is sent a copper plate thereof, with a description and directionns for putting the work together, to be made use of in case it shall meet with the approbation of Messrs. Wiss and Robinson.

19. In respect to the case of Mr. Delaporte which you have recommended to our consideration, we must observe that if we were to suffer our compassion to operate in every instance of distress, we should find our resources in a great degree exhausted for the relief of individuals; and, therefore, we can testify our concern for Mr. Delaporte's situation no further than to direct that if he shall not be in a condition to profit by the permission we have given him to remain in India under free merchant's covenants and shall be desirous of returning to England, he be then allowed and paid one hundred pounds to defray the expence of his passage hither.

20. Notwithstanding the pleasing expectations we have of great improvements being made in the silk manufacture by the method proposed by Mr. Wiss for winding silk from the cocoons, we cannot but approve the caution you have shewn in not complying to the full extent with his application for buildings and furnaces to be erected until you should have experienced the benefit of his new method. And while we trust that you will not admit of any unnecessary expence on this account, we no less assure ourselves that you will not withhold your aid or neglect any proper means for carrying on an undertaking which promises great advantages to so important a branch of our investment.

21. Being desirous to manifest our readiness to encourage the superintendants of the silk filatures in the prosecution of this work, we direct that Messrs. Wiss and Robinson be allowed and paid each two hundred pounds per annum in addition to the salaries we assigned them on their appointments, to commence from the time of your receiving these orders, and we hope and trust this spontaneous instance of our bounty will excite their assiduity and attention to the perfecting the silk manufacture of Bengal.

22. From a like motive as well as from the reasons you have given for increasing the allowances of the Italians employed under Mr. Wiss, we acquiesce in the addition you have made to the salaries under which they had engaged to serve.

23. As there are frequent deficiencies in the bales of piece goods consigned from your Presidency, and which (from the bales being sewed with Indian thread) must happen before they are sent on board, we positively direct that, conformable to the 132d paragraph of our orders of 10th April, 1771, our servants who are employed under the Warehouse Keeper in sorting and packing the bales do each of them sign his name to the tickets which are to be put in the bales they shall so pack, by which means we may in case of any deficiency discover to whose negligence the same is owing, and accordingly require such servants to make good any loss which shall be sustained by us on that account.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India, transactions with the country government, &c.*

24. Your attention to the security of our possessions and commerce in Bengal in arming the European inhabitants at Calcutta gives us much satisfaction; and we are pleased with this measure not only on account of the defence it may afford your settlement in case the French should attempt to execute any hostile designs against it, but, as by your thus having a perfect

knowledge of the several Europeans who reside under our protection, you may be the better enabled to prevent them from pursuing any steps detrimental to the Company's interest, or injurious to the rights of the natives.

25. As much of the utility of the Militia which has been embodied by you must depend on their being trained and well exercised in arms, we trust that you will not neglect any opportunity to render them well qualified for the purposes for which they were formed. And, in such case, we cannot doubt but that their own and the common good will excite in them a spirit which will lead them to oppose with vigour the efforts of any enemy.

26. And here we cannot forbear renewing our recommendation that you continue to keep a watchful eye on the motions and proceedings of the French in particular, since the force said to be collected or collecting at the Islands cannot be considered as having only self-defence for the object. For although political appearances in Europe are at present pacifick, we cannot but deem it absolutely necessary for you to be at all times upon your guard against a surprize, lest such be meditated by a nation whose commerce and influence having been diminished by our past successes; it may be supposed they will be ready to seize the first favorable opportunity of attempting to re-establish such commerce and to recover their influence amongst the powers of India.

27. The King of Denmark having, on the expiration of the Charter of the Danish East India Company, appointed some persons to settle the conditions of it's renewal, we herewith forward to you for your information on the subject copy of a letter from William Fraser Esqr., Under Secretary of State, dated 30th September last; together with copy of an extract of a letter therein referred to respecting the alterations intended to be made by a new charter. And, so soon as the same shall be established, and we be apprized of the several particulars thereof, we shall not fail to transmit them to you for your guidance in this respect.

28. It affords us much satisfaction to find that Captain Justice has not only escaped from the tyranny and oppression under which he laboured at Pegue, but that he has thereby freed us from the payment of the unjust demand made by Dundas on account of the ship *St. Helena*, which demand you deemed yourselves under the necessity of discharging to prevent Captain Justice from falling a sacrifice to the avarice of Dundas and his undue influence at the Burman's Court.

29. As Captain Justice and the crew of the *St. Helena* sustained such losses and suffered great hardships in the service on which that ship had been ordered, we cannot disapprove of the recompence you have made them for their said losses and sufferings in that unfortunate undertaking.

30. From the late proceedings of Mr. Dundas, we are sensible how little room there is to expect an advantageous intercourse of commerce with the dominions of Pegue while a person of his disposition holds any considerable influence at that Court; but should Dundas be removed from thence, we trust that you will take such measures as prudence shall suggest for cultivating a good understanding with the natives, so that any views we may hereafter have respecting a settlement on that coast may be facilitated by a previous disposition in our favour.



31. We are here led to acquaint you that our servants at Madrass have advised us of their having received two letters from Pegue, the one from Mahomed Sadeck, Head *Shaubunder*, the other from Johannes Moses, the Junior *Shaubunder*, at Rangoon, containing offers of their service in case the Company should think proper to have a settlement there, and assurances that the greatest sanction should be given to our commerce. And, although we concur with our President and Council in their reasons for declining such offers at the present time, we have, nevertheless, declared our approbation of their intentions to keep up a good understanding with the persons now in power by such presents as might be merely sufficient to express a proper sense of those offers and to induce them to believe that Pegue may hereafter be an object of our attention.

32. From this intelligence of our servants at Madrass, we have taken occasion to recommend to them to embrace such an opportunity of signifying to the said *Shaubanders* how much it would oblige us if they would send Mr. Dundas to any of our settlements to answer for his conduct in the treatment of Captain Justice, and we have directed that, in case this point should be obtained, Mr. Dundas be sent to Europe by the first conveyance.

33. As what we have here noticed to you will fully discover our present views in respect to Pegue, and our desire that Mr. Dundas should no longer have it in his power to injure the Company or to oppress British subjects in their trade to Pegue, we shall enlarge no further on this subject than to recommend that, in any future measures respecting a settlement at Pegue, (should such be found expedient,) you do advise with the Presidency at Fort Saint George, and co-operate with them in every point which shall be judged conducive to the Company's interest.

34. It gives us concern to find that the Director and Council of Chinsura should have formed an expectation, and pleaded a right, to a larger proportion of saltpetre than what you were enabled to allot them out of the produce of last season; but as from your records we observe that their plea in point of right appears to be wholly invalidated, and indeed seems to have been relinquished, by their receiving the same proportion in other years without any objection, we hope that upon mature consideration they will be convinced of your having manifested the most friendly disposition towards the Dutch East India Company in the distribution of saltpetre which you have assigned to them. We have therefore only to enjoin you at all times to promote that concord and good understanding which we are solicitous to preserve with the subjects of the States General by affording the Dutch as large a proportion out of the annual produce of saltpetre as can be spared from our own occasions, allowing at the same time for a resonable share to the agents of other European nations with whom we are also desirous to be on terms of harmony and friendship.

*Fifthly, of fortifications, buildings and revenues*

35. As the buildings at Chittagong have so long been a heavy expence to the Company, how greatly must we be surprised to find that the plan which has been undertaken at that factory is, at length, declared to be more extensive than was requisite, and has, in consequence, been circumscribed by you.

Hence, we cannot but infer that either you have been inattentive to the Company's interest in permitting an improper plan to be pursued, or that our servants at Chittagong have carried on the said buildings without your knowledge and consent.

36. In this uncertainty we can only declare that in case our servants at that factory have involved us in any expences not authorized by you, we must consider them as responsible to us for all such charges, and direct that they do, forthwith, re-imburse the same to our treasury.

37. You are, nevertheless, to represent to us, fully and impartially, not only the true state of the buildings at Chittagong, but the conduct of all our servants concerned in those buildings, that we may be enabled to judge whether or not we ought to recede from the resolution we have taken to compel our servants to reimburse to us all such expences as shall not have been warranted either by necessity or your consent.

38. As the reasons which have led us to prohibit your engaging in any new works without our express permission operate no less against any considerable buildings being undertaken at your subordinates than against additions being made to the present plan of the new fort, we expect and require that you take care that prohibition be strictly observed at your several factories as well as at your Presidency.

39. We are greatly surprized to find that notwithstanding the enormous sums which have already been expended on the cantonments of Burrumpore, and that the same are still incompleat, you should entertain a thought of involving us in an additional expence for the erection of a wall round those extensive works in order, as is alleged, to keep the soldiery within proper bounds, or to prevent their being intoxicated by the spirit[u]ous liquors which may be introduced into the said cantonments. However desirous we are to prevent an evil of this kind, we must express our displeasure at that readiness with which you agreed to comply with Sir Robert Barker's recommendation of so costly a mode of prevention, more especially as we cannot but be of opinion that by proper care and vigilance in the officers, the private men might be hindered from such immoderate use of spirit[u]ous liquors as would otherwise prove destructive to their health or prejudicial to the service.

40. But as by the heavy expences of the new fort and other buildings you have been constrained to defer the execution of your design to another season, we take this occasion to direct that you do entirely forego all intention of erecting the said wall, or if the same shall have been already undertaken, that you desist from the prosecution of it until you shall receive our further orders in respect thereto.

41. As the charges of your fortifications and buildings have been so great a drain upon your treasury as to contribute to effects severely felt by us, especially in the mode of providing our investments of last season, we cannot sufficiently express our displeasure on finding ourselves disappointed in trusting to assurances repeatedly given us of a speedy completion of the new fort and those other works which have been considered as essentially necessary to the defence and protection of our possessions and commerce in Bengal. And since we have so little reason to rely on any declarations which you have made in this respect, we hereby peremptorily direct that you do not, on any

pretence whatsoever, expend, in one year, more than to the amount of one hundred thousand pounds on the fortifications, cantonments, buildings and works, either at your Presidency or subordinates; and in the expenditure of any part of this sum, we strictly enjoin you to confine your view to the completion of the new fort and such works as are most immediately necessary for the security of our settlements.

42. No other consideration than our earnest desire to have the fortifications of Calcutta compleated with all possible expedition could have induced us to apply so large a sum annually for perfecting those and all other necessary works, and we cannot but be of opinion that the same will be more than sufficient for the purposes intended. We therefore expect that you manifest your regard to the Company's interest and orders not only by forbearing to engage in new designs, but by being watchful and attentive to prevent any part of the beforementioned amount being applied to other purposes than those designed and directed by us.

43. From what we have above observed, you will be led to expect that we cannot approve of your permitting apartments to be erected at Mootejill for the assistants to the Council of Revenue; for however inconsiderable may be the expence supposed necessary for such buildings, we have had such experience of the little regard which is had to frugality in constructions of every kind that even though the same shall have been undertaken, you must issue immediate orders that a final stop be put thereto, and that proper houses or apartments be hired for the accommodation of the several persons who shall be employed as assistants to the Council of Revenue, and in this we require you to regard only the health and convenience of our servants, and not to gratify their vanity by needless or sumptuous accommodations.

44. While we indulge ourselves in the hope of seeing our *Duanny* revenues improved by the care of Supervisors appointed to inspect and controul the officers of Government and to superintend the collections, we deem it incumbent on us to guard against any ill effects which may otherwise happen, should our servants in those stations acquire an undue influence in their respective districts. It is therefore our pleasure and we direct that no Superintendant of the collection of revenues be permitted to have charge of any particular district for more than two successive years; and that during his continuance in such station he be not, directly or indirectly, engaged or interested in carrying on any trade in the districts committed to his care; but that at the expiration of the term of two years, such of our servants who may have been employed as Supervisors be permitted to return to the Presidency, or to hold such stations as their rank in our service and the good conduct they shall have discovered in the business of the revenues may entitle them to expect.

45. We, however, must here observe that as the business of the collections must be, in many respects, similar throughout the provinces, we are unwilling to lose the benefit of that knowledge which our servants shall have acquired in the station of Superintendant of the collections, and therefore should any such Superintendant who may have faithfully discharged his trust during the beforementioned term be inclined to continue in the like capacity for a longer time, you are in such case to appoint him to the charge of another district,

where it is not probable that any power and influence acquired in his former residence can be exercised to private advantage.

46. The reasons you have assigned for discontinuing the office of *Aumil* in the business of the revenues are very satisfactory to us, and your recommending to the Nabob the appointment of *Phowzedars* at Houghly and Dacca in order to transact the affairs of the country government with European nations cannot but meet with our approbation, as it entirely coincides with our repeated orders and the ideas we entertain of its being the surest means of avoiding disputes and altercations with all Europeans in the province of Bengal.

47. While your conduct in resuming the *jaghire* which the late Rajah Doolubram enjoyed in the province of Bahar, and in referring to our determination the petition of his son to succeed to his father's appointments, has at once discovered a commendable regard to our interest and respect to our authority, we have cause to complain of your having omitted to furnish us with means of judging how far the young Rajah is entitled to our compassion from any inability to support his rank and the family of his deceased father who are become dependant on him, for we are left wholly uninformed both of his circumstances and the emoluments he receives from any employment held by him under the Government.

48. Being thus uncertain of the real necessities of the young Rajah we can by no means permit our inclination to favor the son on account of his father's services to operate to so great an extent as granting him the *jaghire* which Rajah Doolubram possessed in the Bahar Province, more especially, as upon his utmost title to our compassion, we should prefer the bestowing on him an additional allowance for his services in the station he holds under the Government to the gratifying him with a grant of the *jaghire*. You will therefore give us information in respect to the circumstances, appointments, and merit of Meha Rajah Rajebullub, together with your opinion of what allowance would enable him to support himself and dependants in a suitable manner, and how far he is qualified to render us any services in the affairs of Government, so that we may be fully enabled to determine on the plea of his petition which you have referred to us.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military servants,  
and their accounts*

49. We have permitted Mr. Francis Charlton, who came to Europe with your license for the benefit of his health, to return to his station in your Council; but as he is not quite recovered we have indulged him to remain in England till next season.

50. Mr. Thomas Rumbold, whom we had appointed by our letter of the 25th April last to be fifth of your Council, has since relinquished the above appointment.

51. As Mr. John Taylor, appointed one of the writers for your Presidency, went last year to Bombay, we have directed our President and Council there to acquaint him with his appointment in case he should be at that place, and



by the *Duke of Grafton* we send his covenants, which are to be executed immediately on his arrival in Bengal and returned by one of the first ships.

52. It being the constant rule of the service for persons to serve five years in the stations they go out in, and is also one of the stipulations in their covenants, it is therefore our pleasure that Mr. Charles Fleetwood do serve five years as a factor.

53. We have permitted Mr. James Barton (who formerly held a civil employ at your Presidency) to return to Bengal in the station of factor to rank next below Mr. Charles Fleetwood.

54. Mr. Francis Fowke appointed a writer for your Presidency in 1769 and whose health did not then permit him to proceed to his station, having since declined the service you must take his name out of your list of covenant servants.

55. We have appointed Mr. Alexander Duncanson to be a writer at your Presidency in the room and with the rank of Mr. George White (who has declined), as advised in our letter of 15th January.

56. We have permitted Messrs. John Sykes and Edward Ephraim Pote, two of the writers appointed this season, to remain in England till next year without prejudice to their rank on account of their ill state of health.

57. As many of our civil servants have of late returned from India to England under various pretences, and after residing here for some years petitioned us for liberty to return to the stations they formerly held in our service, in order to put an end to such applications in future, which are not only troublesome to us but injurious to our servants abroad, we are fully determined that no member of your Council or in any other civil employ at your Presidency shall, after he arrives in England, have our permission to return to his rank and station, unless it shall appear to be recorded on your Consultations that at the time you allowed him to leave India he did not resign or entirely relinquish our service, and in consequence thereof on his arrival here shall prefer a memorial to us signifying his inclinations to return when his health is restored or his private affairs are adjusted.

58. We are highly displeased at your disobedience to our orders of 23d March, 1770, respecting the reimbursement of all such sums which had been paid by our servants out of the commission of 2½ per cent to such persons to whom we had not thought fit to assign any share thereof; and we cannot forbear testifying our surprise that the repugnance which you evidently shew to the execution of those commands should be founded on the plea you have offered in your justification.

59. Were it possible we could be persuaded that our Council had, as you allege, been induced to this step from a full persuasion that the surplus arising from such commission was intended as a recompence to those servants in Bengal whose particular profession and situation made them proper objects of our consideration, we could not but be impressed with an idea either of your want of judgment or attention; for upon the least advertence to the 117th paragraph of our orders of 20th November, 1767, and to the 182d paragraph of our letter of 16th March, 1768, which ought to have been the rule of their conduct, they could not have been under any difficulty concerning

the purposes to which we meant to apply such surplus as might arise from the unappropriated shares of the said commission. Or, even had that been possible, certainly we had reason to believe that they would have been sufficiently restrained by our express injunction of 20th November, 1767, which positively directs that *the surplus should be carried to the Company's credit under the head of unappropriated commission until you shall receive further orders from us concerning the disposition of it.*

60. And, therefore, in referring this matter to our further consideration, you have only discovered an unjustifiable partiality to such of our servants who had acted in violation of our orders, and by not requiring immediate repayment of such sums as had been unduly paid out of the said surplus, you have manifested as little regard to our interest as to our commands, and so far are we from being disposed to recede from our orders of 23d March, 1770, that we hereby renew and confirm the same. You are therefore forthwith to demand and receive of the several members of our Council who consented to the payment of any share or shares of the said commission not warranted by us, or, in case of their absence from your Presidency, of their respective attornies or agents, the amount of the several sums which have been so unduly paid out of the said commission; and if such members of our Council, their attornies or agents, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same immediately into our treasury at Fort William, we direct that you forthwith proceed to an attachment of their effects in like manner as we directed should be done in the 42d paragraph of our letter of 28th August, 1771, respecting the reimbursement which we required of those members of our Council who had involved us in the payment of damages for non-payment of a bill of exchange drawn for the first moiety of the Navy Donation.

61. The motives which induced you to restore Mr. Keighley to the station from which he had been degraded for neglect and misbehaviour in respect to balancing the books of Military Paymaster General are far from justifying you in that measure. Had you paid the least attention to our orders of the 20th November, 1767, you could not have thought him entitled to any such indulgence upon the commendation given him by the Military Paymaster, since you would there have found that his *continuance* in our service and not a *restoration* to his *rank* was to depend upon his further diligence and good conduct. You have therefore incurred our displeasure in proceeding so far without our permission; and as we do not deem the negligence which occasioned Mr. Keighley's degradation sufficiently attoned for by so short a trial of his diligence, we direct that he do remain fixed in the station to which he had been degraded until we find more valid reasons for remitting entirely the punishment which his former misconduct had so justly drawn upon him.

62. Lieutenant Colonel Leslie, soon after his return to England, presented to us a memorial complaining that Lieutenant Colonel Sempill and himself had been superceded by your having appointed three supernumerary Lieutenant Colonels subsequent to the date of Lieutenant Colonels Sempill and Leslie's commission and before their arrival in India, and that Lieutenant Colonel Morgan, whom we had fixed to the rank of Major, had been also placed before them. Having in our orders of 23d March, 1770, concurred in the promotion of Lieutenant Colonels Galliez and Ironside, we direct that Lieutenant Colonels Sempill and Leslie do rank next to Lieutenant Colonel

Gilbert Ironside ; and as we find you had given Major Morgan a commission of Lieutenant Colonel previous to the receipt of our orders for restricting his rank, we shall acquiesce in the appointment, but it is our express will and pleasure that he remain always the youngest Lieutenant Colonel on the list of officers in Bengal.

63. Having a very favorable opinion of the military abilities of Major Alexander Dow and having remitted the offence of many of the officers concerned in the general association in 1766, we have thought proper to restore him to the rank he would have held on your establishment had he never engaged in that transaction, which rank we find to be next below Lieutenant Colonel Cumming. He is however to receive the usual pay and allowances of Captain only until the field officers at your Presidency shall be reduced to the number fixed by the last establishment, of six lieutenant colonels and nine majors of infantry and seapoys, but he is then to be allowed the full pay and emoluments of Lieutenant Colonel.

64. We have considered the case of Captain Arther Ahmuty who was concerned in the general association in 1766 and which you refer to our consideration in your letter of the 25th August, 1770 ; and as there does not appear to us any particular objection against his receiving the same favor which hath been extended to other officers in the like circumstances, we have agreed, and do hereby accordingly order, that he do rank in the list of military officers at your Presidency next under Major John Upton, which rank he would have held had he not forfeited it by the association in 1766, but he is to be under the like restriction as to pay and emoluments which is directed to be observed in the case of Major Dow until the field officers shall be reduced to the number mentioned in the preceeding paragraph.

65. It has been represented to us that by our granting a major's brevet last year to Mr George Boulton Eyres he was placed in a rank he was not entitled to, and thereby several officers who were promoted to companies before him have been superceded ; and as we are desirous of rectifying such mistake we direct that notwithstanding our orders of last season which ascertained Mr. Eyre's rank, you do place him on your military list next under that officer, the date of whose commission as captain immediately preceded Mr. Eyre's commission for the same rank, without retrospect to any former orders for settling his rank for any degree below that of captain.

66. We were led into the above appointment from your having omitted to send us the registers of commissions granted to military officers for several years past in breach of our repeated orders. We therefore direct that you do not fail sending us compleat registers of promotions and casualties from the year 1764, being the last books of commissions received, and the same must be sent annually in duplicate, as we shall not fail testifying our resentment for any future omissions.

67. We have considered your representation of Major Samuel Sears's case in respect to rank, as also a memoria lately preferred to us here on his behalf, and can by no means think of affording Mr Sears any relief therein, as from thence many insuperable difficulties would arise to us in our present military system.

68. We have permitted Captain Robert Coxe to return to his rank on

your military establishment; and in consideration of his expences, trouble and attendance as a witness in the suit at law instituted by Mr. Bolts, we have presented him with one hundred pounds, and also advanced him two hundred pounds to defray the charges of his return to Bengal on his bond to repay the same out of his growing pay and effects there within twelve months after his arrival at your Presidency. The bond is enclosed in the *Duke of Grafton's* packet.

69. As Lieutenant Colonel Dow has not recovered his health and Lieutenant Colonel Leslie not yet settled his private affairs, we have permitted them to remain in England until next season.

70. Upon considering the case of Mr. James Broadbent, ensign at your Presidency at the time of the general resignation in 1766, we have thought fit to readmit him into our service on your establishment with the rank of youngest Lieutenant upon his arrival. He accordingly takes passage on the *Prince of Wales*, in which ship's packet is sent a copy of his commission.

71. Lieutenant George Wright and Lewis Smith, who came to England with your licence, are permitted to return to your Presidency without prejudice to their ranks, and we shall send copies of their commissions in the ships' packets on which they take passage.

72. Mr. William Richardson, who was appointed a cadet last season but was then prevented from proceeding to his station by a severe fit of illness, has had our permission to take passage on one of the ships of this season, to rank agreeable to the list sent per *Colebrooke* and *Lord Holland*, which was next below Robert Baynes.

73. The friends of Lieutenant Charles Pemble have represented to us that upon his being removed from Bombay to Bengal he was placed as youngest ensign on your establishment; yet upon the arrival of Lieutenant Fireworker Samuel Sears from the same Presidency, the latter, though his junior at Bombay, had been ranked before him. Upon reference to the circumstances here mentioned we find that Lieutenant Pemble was removed from Bombay in order to be employed under Colonel Campbell in the Engineer Corps. It is therefore our pleasure, and we positively direct, that he be restricted to remain in that Corps according to the rank he held at Bombay; and we further direct that Lieutenant Sears be removed to and fixed in the Artillery, to which Corps he belonged at Bombay, to rank according to the date of the commission he held at that Presidency.

74. Your conduct in respect of Mr. Madec's application for a pardon for having deserted our service meets with our entire approbation, as nothing but an unquestionable evidence of his desire to atone for such defection can entitle him to that favour which he appears solicitous to obtain. And as your judgment has led you to make a trial, both of his inclination and ability, to render us essential service previous to your entering into any agreement with him, we trust it must be needless for us to recommend to you to be cautious in your correspondence with him, lest the discovery of your views and intentions should be perverted to other purposes than those of the Company's advantage.

75. We cannot sufficiently testify our surprize at what you declare to have been of late the usage at Fort William in respect to engineer officers



being permitted to interfere in the command of our troops where there is no military officer of rank superior to them. As you appear apprehensive of the consequences which might result from such an innovation and must have been sensible that the due execution of the office of an engineer must engage his whole time and attention and prevent him from doing the duty of an officer commanding troops, either in the field or in garrison, we disapprove your having indulged officers of engineers with any improper expectations respecting command which they may have formed from the rank assigned by the term of their commissions.

76. But to obviate the consequences you seem to apprehend from this indulgence, we take occasion to declare that we do not deem it compatible with our service, nor can we admit that engineer officers ever take command except of such troops as may be immediately put under them to be employed as working parties or for any particular services which depends upon and require the immediate direction of an engineer. But in respect to their rank, it is our intention and we direct that in all councils of war and courts martial to which they may be summoned, and also in all cases of honorary precedence, the officers of the Engineer Corps do take rank according to the dates of their commissions.

77. Our President and Council at Fort Marlborough have informed us that they had permitted their engineer Captain George Burghall to proceed to the other side of India to settle some private affairs. But as we esteem his presence necessary at Fort Marlborough we direct, in case he should be in Bengal, on the receipt hereof, that he do forthwith proceed to his station on the West Coast, and should he refuse or neglect so to do, you are to consider him as having quitted the service, and he must be sent to Europe on the first ship; and in case Mr. Burghall should be either at our Presidency of Fort St. George or Bombay, you must advise such Presidency of this our order that they may conform thereto.

78. The many difficulties and inconveniences which the Company's service suffers from the coming home of their military commission officers who may yet intend to return again to their posts have made it absolutely necessary for us to consider of some expedient that may put an end to a measure so

very detrimental to our service. We have, therefore, in addition to our orders on this subject communicated in our letter of the 10th April, 1771, come to the following resolution, which you are to regard as a standing order to be inviolably observed in all times to come, *vizt.*—

“That if any commission officer in the Company's service in the East Indies shall repair to England under pretence of obtaining relief for any injury he is apprehensive of labouring under without having first applied through the Governor and Council of the Presidency under which he acts to the Court of Directors for redress, or who having made such application does not continue in his employ and wait the determination of the Court of Directors, but shall return to Europe before an answer is given from them on the subject of his complaint, [ he ] shall absolutely and entirely to all intents and purposes stand and be held to be dismissed from the Company's service. And that this resolution, as soon after the receipt thereof as may be at the Company's several

Presidencies, be given out in public orders, and read at the head of all the bodies and detachments of the troops serving under those Presidencies."

79. And it is our further pleasure that our beforementioned orders on this subject dated the 10th April last be read in the like manner and at the same time as the above.

80. It having been represented to us that Francis Peat, who enlisted himself as a soldier about four years since, and John Lediard, who was by the last accounts a private centinel in the 2d Battalion of the First Brigade, are persons of family, we therefore recommend, in case they have served to your satisfaction and are qualified to be promoted to a superior rank, that you put them on the list of cadets next below the youngest of those going out this season in the order abovenamed.

81. On the ships of this season, about 1,863 recruits will be embarked for our military service at the three chief Presidencies, seven hundred whereof are intended for Bengal, six hundred and sixty-three for Fort St. George, and five hundred for Bombay, which we judge will put those establishments upon a very respectable footing.

82. In our letter of the 23d March, 1770, we directed you to send a copy of the court martial held on Captain John Donnellan to which you have not sent any reply; and as he has repeated his request to us and is very anxious to be furnished therewith, we repeat our positive direction that you do not fail sending us by the first opportunity a copy of the said court martial and all proceedings relating to his conduct, that we may be able to give that gentleman all the satisfaction in our power.

83. Upon examining into the state of your revenues we observe there is a great decrease in your sea customs, which we can attribute to no other cause than frauds and irregularities having been practised in collecting them. As we are apprehensive that these may have their rise from frequent changes in the post of Deputy Custom Master, and that it must tend greatly to the Company's advantage to have a person fixed and employed solely in that station with such encouragement as might engage him to devote himself entirely to the regulation and improvement of the revenues arising from sea customs, we have appointed Mr. James Bonwicke to the post of Deputy Custom Master at your Presidency. He is to be fixed as youngest Junior Merchant; and as an incitement to him to be assiduous in the discharge of his duty and attentive to the increase of this revenue, he is to be allowed a commission of two per cent on the sums which shall be collected at the custom house at Calcutta, and such commission is to be in full consideration of all allowances and emoluments whatsoever for his services in this employment, unless the same shall not amount to five hundred pounds per annum, in which case he is to be paid so much out of our cash as will render the whole of his emoluments equal to that amount.

84. We have considered your representation of the case of Mr. John Stormonth, assistant surgeon on your establishment; and though we are willing to believe the circumstances which you have urged in his favor, yet as the plea of ignorance of the necessary forms of address if admitted in this instance might subject us to endless applications of the like kind, we cannot consent to restore him to the rank he has lost by his own error. Mr. Stormonth

must therefore rest satisfied with the succession he may be entitled to from your appointment of him on his return to India.

85. The new covenants to be entered into by the persons permitted by us to go to India in the chirurgical way, as noticed in our letter of last year by the *Colebrooke*, makes it unnecessary for their entering here into the obligation they used to do for serving as surgeons or surgeons' assistants. Therefore, in future, such obligation will not be required, nor will our Secretary give the persons of that profession the certificate of their licence as heretofore.

86. We have permitted Charles Crommelin Esqr., our late President and Governor of Bombay, to return to and reside for three years in the East Indies to adjust his outstanding concerns; and being desirous, in consideration of the important office he filled in our service, to give him all necessary assistance towards the recovery of his effects which are extensively dispersed in different parts, we have indulged him with the liberty of exercising a commercial intercourse by way of export and import to and from the several ports in India in the same manner as other traders subject to our stated rules, of which you are to take notice and therein to be assisting to him accordingly.

87. In the year 1768 we permitted one David Hunter to proceed to Bengal as a mariner; but as we are well assured that his right name was David Van Der Heyden, and as we are told he is very desirous of using the latter, we agree thereto and direct that you insert him in your list of mariners by such name, on condition that he previously signs the covenant enclosed in the packet by the *Prince of Wales*, which must be executed before, and signed by, two witnesses, and returned to us as soon as may be.

88. We have not permitted any persons to proceed to the East Indies this season either as free merchants or free mariners. Those who are licensed to go out as surgeons will appear by the lists forwarded in the packets, and are as usual to be employed either as surgeons or assistant surgeons (according to their covenants) at such Presidencies where they may be wanted and approved in the order they stand upon the lists.

89. Such observations and remarks as our Auditor shall make on the accounts received from your Presidency will in future be forwarded a number in our packets, to which your attention and obedience are required in the like manner as if such remarks were incorporated in our General Letter.

90. When we compare the military charges of your Presidency with those of Fort St. George, we are struck with astonishment at finding the expences of your establishment more than double the amount of that on the Coast. As so enormous a difference is by no means reconcileable with the little disproportion there is between the two establishments, we are led to infer that this excess must be owing to the inattention of our President and Council as well as to abuses and embezzlements by individuals in the several parts of the Military Department.

91. In order, therefore, to discover the causes and prevent the continuance of an evil which is become intolerable to us, it is our positive command that you forthwith investigate the military charges of your Presidency, even to the most minute particular; and should any abuses or mismanagement appear in conducting the business of this Department, we expect and require

that you not only inflict due punishment upon all persons who shall have offended in this respect, but that you take all proper measures for putting an effectual stop to such practices in future. And we further direct that you send us, by the first opportunity, a full and particular state of the military charges of your Presidency distinguished under their proper heads and exhibited in so clear and comprehensive a manner that we may not remain under the least uncertainty respecting the causes which have occasioned the immoderate extent of your military expences, but that we may be enabled to judge by what mode and in what degree the same may be reduced without weakening that establishment which may be necessary for the protection of our possessions in Bengal.

92. The great increase which has of late appeared in the civil charges of your Presidency will not suffer us to suppress our displeasure at the little attention there seems to have been paid to our repeated orders for retrenching every superfluous expence. For though your civil establishment has been considerably augmented since our possession of the *Dewanny*, we do not conceive it possible that your charges could have swelled to so great a degree, had our Governor and Council been attentive to their duty and regulated the expences of your Presidency by a proper and requisite oeconomy.

93. As from the effects we have so severely felt from the insufficiency of your resources to answer the expectations we had been led to form from our late acquisitions in Bengal, we cannot rest satisfied under the present charges of your civil establishment. It is our positive command that you enter into an immediate examination of every particular article of your disbursements relative thereto, and we expect and require, as you regard the continuance of our favor, that you do not permit the least superfluous charge or unwarrantable allowance to add to a burthen which necessarily lies heavy on us. And we further direct that you send us by the earliest opportunity a full and particular state of the several charges of your civil establishment for the last year, digested in like manner as we have directed in respect to your military, that we may be enabled to discover whether the enormous extent of those charges is the necessary consequence of your establishment, or whether we can apply a remedy to an evil which, joined to your military expences, threatens to deprive us of all benefit from the possessions we have acquired in the kingdom of Bengal.

94. The executors of the will of the late Captain Henry Spellman of your cavalry have applied to us in respect to a sum said to be due to his estate on account of disbursements made by him for horses etc., furnished the troop, setting forth that frequent applications have been made by his executor in India for payment of those disbursements, but without any effect, together with other circumstances as will more fully appear by the accompanying copy of the said executor's memorial.

95. Hereupon, having recourse to your Military Paymaster's books, we find that instead of any balance being due to Captain Spellman, he there stands debtor to the Company in the sum of current rupees 24,220-7-9 for sundry advances made to him for the use of the cavalry.

96. And, therefore, as this demand of the said memorialist is by no means to be reconciled with Captain Spellman's account as it appears on the



books of your Presidency, we direct that without delay you make a full enquiry into the whole of these transactions; and in case the said balance of current rupees 24,220-7-9 shall be found due to the Company, you must take the most speedy and effectual measures for recovering the same. But, on the contrary, should it appear that the Company remains indebted to the estate of Captain Spellman, you must advise us of the result of your enquiry and enable us to determine precisely what sum the executors ought in justice to receive from the Company.

97. Mr. Diederick Adolph Wilmers, late an officer in our artillery at your Presidency, has complained to us by a memorial (copy whereof is now sent you) that his representative in Bengal has delayed remitting his effects to Europe. We therefore direct that you give him such assistance in the matter as shall appear proper for complying with Mr. Wilmer's request.

98. We have paid Mrs. Mary Tate, the widow and executrix of Captain John Tate of His Majesty's 84th Regiment, five hundred pounds, being the amount of a sett of bills paid into your cash the 10th February, 1770, by Mr. John Zachary Kiernander on her late husband's account, which bills by some accident have never come to hand. We have likewise allowed her twelve months interest at 4 per cent per annum in consideration of the loss she has sustained by her disappointment in not duly receiving those bills, but we have taken sufficient security to indemnify the Company from any demand that may be hereafter made for the said sum. Mrs. Tate has also requested payment of the amount of three setts of bills of exchange for one hundred and thirty-five pounds one shilling each for money paid into your treasury on the 20th January, 1771, by the said Mr. Kiernander on her account, which bills likewise had not come to her possession, but as these might be expected in the course of the season we have not employed therewith.

99. As there appears to have been some neglect in the person who should have transmitted the beforementioned bills, we direct that you call upon Mr. Kiernander who paid in the amount, to know to whom and in what manner he sent those several bills, and in case he shall have any or either of them remaining in his possession, he do transmit the same in your packets that the indemnity bond entered into on this account may be delivered up to be cancelled.

100. The great obstructions in the *Falmouth's* voyage and the final loss of that ship having arisen from accidental causes, we cannot comply with Major Hannay's request to be allowed his pay and *batta*, nor can we reimburse his loss of baggage, the more especially as our compliance would subject us to many other demands of the like kind.

101. By the postscript of our letter of the 17th March, 1769, we advised you of our having drawn a sett of bills of exchange upon you for rupees one thousand or one hundred pounds, payable to Mr. Thomas Chichely Plowden, but as he died in the voyage, the bills have been returned, the amount repaid to his representative in England, and the bills cancelled.

102. We have allowed to Captain John Sealy two years' interest on current rupees, 8,010-3-9 in consideration of the loss he suffered by the miscarriage of a sett of bills of exchange for that amount drawn by the President and Council at Fort St. George the 1st December, 1767, but not paid 'till 25th

April, 1770, so that he unavoidably incurred more than two years' interest by the accident of their miscarriage.

103. We have so often noticed to you the expediency of your furnishing us with the readiest means for investigating the several important transactions of your Presidency, that we cannot but be highly displeased to find not only the separate sections of your Consultations and proceedings, but even setts for a compleat year, are sent us without index or reference to the particular subjects which are treated therein. It is therefore our express order that in future you do not fail to annex to your books of Consultations and the proceedings of your committees, a general index of all matters contained in them. And this rule you are to observe as well with respect to the separate sections which may be transmitted as to the books of consultations for compleat years, as is the general practice of our servants at the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay

104. We have had the satisfaction to receive per *Lord Mansfield* the Moorshedabad Consultations from the institution of our Council of Revenue to a period which we suppose to have been the latest that would admit of their being sent to you in time for the *Mansfield's* dispatch.

105. And as by the letters to the Resident at the Durbar (which were received in the office after the appointment of a Council of Revenues, and transmitted to you with their Consultations) we are more than ever convinced of the expediency of being furnished with all correspondence of the Durbar Resident prior to the appointment of our said Council of Revenue, we hereby direct that our servants at Moorshedabad do forthwith prepare copies of all books, papers and accounts relative to the past transactions of the revenues under the management of the Durbar Resident, and also of all his letters and correspondence in that department from the commencement of the *Dewanny* excepting such as have been entered on the books of your Presidency, which must be referred to in the order they stand on your Consultations.

106. We are sensible that these papers will be very voluminous; but as we deem it absolutely necessary that they be compleated as soon as possible, you will therefore direct our servants at Moorshedabad to use every means in their power to facilitate the execution of these our orders and to render the papers as perfect as may be, that we may have all requisite lights on a subject of so much importance to the Company.

### *Supplement*

107. We have permitted Mr. Thomas Ashburner to proceed to and remain in Bengal to collect and adjust his late brother's outstanding concerns.

108. As Lieutenant Colonel Graham's health is not yet re-established we have permitted him to remain in England until next season.

109. It is our pleasure that Mr. Jonathan Woodford, who proceeds to your Presidency in the *Prince of Wales* as a cadet, be immediately on his arrival appointed an ensign of infantry and to take rank as such, next below the youngest ensign that may be in commission on Mr. Woodford's arrival.

110. The Honorable Mr. Frederick Stuart, a writer at your Presidency, and who came to England by the way of Fort St. George, has our permission to return to Bengal without prejudice to his standing.

111. Mr. Austin's christian name being Hugh instead of William as advised in our letter of the 15th January last, you must therefore take proper notice of it.

112. Having received information that there are vessels cruising off the Cape de Verd or Canary Islands with large quantities of Madeira wines on account of the captains or officers of our outward bound ships, and being solicitous to prevent a practice which is not only contrary to our interest but to the tenour of their engagements, we positively direct that immediately on the arrival of our ships at your Presidency, you order the most strict enquiry to be made respecting any private importation of Madeira wine, and if a larger quantity than five pipes shall be found unregistered in the manifest of any ship's private trade which shall not have been ordered by us to take in wine at Madeira, the same must be confiscated for the Company's use. And it is our further pleasure that you proceed in your enquiry concerning such clandestine importation in the same manner as we have from time to time directed in respect to military and warlike stores or other articles of illicit trade. And you must not fail to send us a full and particular account of all your proceedings in such enquiries, in which you are fully to state all discoveries you may be able to make and to specify particularly the name of every offender and the nature and extent of his offence.

113. Being convinced that many disadvantages must arise from the *purgunnah* sepoy being continued as a corps independent of the rest of our army, it is our pleasure that the *purgunnah* battalions be in future considered as part thereof and be on the same footing as those of the brigades, and that detachments from the whole corps of sepoy be in rotation stationed and employed under those persons who superintend the collection of the revenues. And, in order to render the said sepoy fit for any line of duty, we further direct that those who shall be on the *purgunnah* service be from time to time relieved by other detachments from the brigades, for it is our express order that they be by no means continued so long in the *purgunnahs* as to occasion such a relaxation of their discipline as may tend to injure the general service of the army.

114. This succession of duty and discipline will render it unnecessary to support so large a number of sepoy as may have been requisite while they were formed into distinct corps. We therefore direct that there shall be no greater encrease to our brigade establishment on account of collections of revenues than eight battalions of sepoy. In a word it is our intent and order that the whole of the sepoy corps shall not exceed 26 battalions, which under these regulations we consider as a force sufficient for the protection of the country.

115. Having reason to believe that sundry of our writers and junior servants do by reason of their extravagance and dissipation contract large debts which they are unable to discharge, and that they attempt to screen themselves from actions at law by obtaining leave to reside at places where the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court does not extend, we cannot but be anxious to prevent a practice equally unjust in itself and injurious to the honor of our service; and as we deem such servants utterly unworthy our favour and protection, it is our positive command that if any of our junior servants shall, by endeavouring to avoid prosecution from their creditors, be unable to attend

the duty of their stations, they be immediately dismissed our service and sent to Europe, and we expect and require that you use every legal means in your power to secure their effects for the benefit of their said respective creditors.

116. From the absolute necessity of retrenching all superfluous charges of the military as well as civil establishment at your Presidency, we can no longer permit you to continue in our service three troops of Mogul Cavalry. We incur thereby a heavy expense, and we are convinced the said troops cannot render us service equivalent to such expense. It is therefore our pleasure that instead of 3 troops you keep in your pay only one troop of such Cavalry consisting of one hundred private men with European and black officers according to your last establishment and that we may be relieved as soon as possible from the support of such European officers who may be reduced by the reform hereby directed, you are, on the death or resignation of the lieutenant of the troop, to fill his post by the eldest of those who by this reduction may become supernumeraries on your establishment.

117. The reasons which determined us to discharge from our General Letters such remarks as might be necessary respecting the books and accounts of your Presidency and its subordinates and to transmit them in a separate letter from our Auditor require the like method should be observed on your part. We therefore direct that you reply separately to our Auditor's remarks, and that your observations on all matters relative to accounts be in future conveyed in such separate address to the Court of Directors.

118. And for the present observations and instructions which we have judged it necessary to transmit on the head of accounts at your Presidency, you are hereby referred to the accompanying letter from our Auditor. We take this occasion to repeat our injunctions that you consider the regulations therein recommended to you as coming immediately from ourselves, and as such they are to be complied with in the fullest manner, so that we may be enabled to form with ease and precision such statements of all matters relative to the accounts of your Presidency as shall be necessary for our own information or as may become the objects of public enquiry.

119. As the monthly accounts of the paymasters of each corps of the army must of necessity be duly returned to the Military Paymaster General, we are highly displeased that you should have neglected to supply us with such information respecting your military charges as we could have collected from these accounts, and the more so as you must be sensible that the general entries on the Military Paymaster's books were sufficient for that purpose. We therefore positively direct that you do not fail to send us regularly, in future, copies of the monthly accounts of disbursements of every paymaster in the army as returned to the Military Paymaster General, and we also expect that you supply us with copies of those accounts for such a series of years past as can conveniently be done by the return of the ships of this season.

120. We cannot suppress our indignation at finding that our orders of the 11th of November, 1768, for transmitting to us copies of the accounts of the Society of Trade, together with such further information as might enable us to judge how far that Society had been regular in discharging the balances due on salt, beetlenut and tobacco, have produced no other effect



than to draw from you that imperfect abstract of the Society's accounts for the first year which we find on Consultation 3d October, 1769.

121. And, as we have reason to apprehend that you have evaded our commands from an unwillingness to elucidate the transactions of this Society, we must here declare that if you neglect to forward to us by the ships of the ensuing season compleat copies of all books and accounts of the Society of Trade from its institution to the closing of that monopoly, we shall not only manifest that displeasure which wilful disobedience shall deserve, but require you to indemnify the Company for any loss they may sustain by not receiving the necessary information on this subject.

122. Besides the books and accounts of the said Society of Trade, it is our express will and pleasure that you ascertain to us by letter and statement, in the best manner you are able, the amount of all salt bought up by any of the members of the said Society of Trade, whether jointly or separately, between the 12th day of August, 1765, and the 1st day of March, 1766, as well as for every succeeding year, specifying the names of buyer and seller, and the quantity of salt so bought and sold, as aforesaid, in all cases where such accounts can possibly be obtained.

123. In order to this you will call before you the banyans and other publick servants of those persons who composed the first Committee of Trade,<sup>3</sup> and all other persons whom you may deem able to elucidate the transactions hereby referred to your investigation.

124. You are to take care that the examination of all such persons be made in the most accurate manner and so authenticated as to be of use in a court of judicature in England in case we should have occasion to make such use thereof. And in all the Society's account sales at Calcutta or elsewhere in the different districts of the country, you must be especially careful that the sale price at every place and period be fully and distinctly ascertained.

125. You are on no account to withhold from us such lights on the subject as may enable us fully to investigate the transactions of this Society and the particular members thereof from August 1765 to the present time.

126. As the Society was in September 1766 rendered answerable to the Board for their conduct, and both Society and Council were to be controuled by the Select Committee, we must consider you fully empowered to answer our present command on this subject. And, we again direct that you spare no pains in your enquiries, nor suffer any connections or considerations whatever to prevent you from answering fully our just expectations according to the letter and spirit of these our positive orders, as you value our service, the honor and interest of the Company, and your own characters as its representatives in Bengal, and also as you would avoid the consequences to which you will be rendered liable by a different conduct.

127. In the execution of our said orders particular care must be had to the names of the persons who have from time to time been proprietors of the said Society of Trade; the names of the persons who have from time to time composed their committee or committees; the precise time when alterations by death, resignation or otherwise have happened, either in the said Society or Committee of Trade; the names of all persons quitting and of those succeeding in every such Committee of Trade from its institution to its abolition,

or if it has not yet been totally abolished, then such account must be compleated to the latest period for which they can be taken.

128. As the regulations relative to the conducting the office of Custom Master made by your Committee of Inspection and entered on their proceedings of the 29th April, 1769, appear to us to be well calculated to prevent any illicit importation or exportation of merchandize, we direct that they be carried into execution, and that you add thereto such further regulations as you shall think necessary for answering the above salutary purposes.

129. Since writing thus far Captain Coxe has represented to us that it will be very inconvenient to him to proceed to his duty on either of the ships now under dispatch, and we have permitted him to remain in England till next season. Therefore, the bond mentioned in the 28th paragraph to be enclosed in the *Prince of Wales's* packet will not be sent till Captain Coxe goes.

130. By the *Duke of Grafton* are sent two small cases containing reels etc., prepared here agreeable to the directions sent by Mr. Robinson, which on their arrival must be forwarded to him.

131. We have thought proper to appoint Mr. William Haverkam (now a free merchant in Bengal) a writer at your Presidency, and he is to take rank next below Mr. John Lloyd, the last appointed this season. Mr. Haverkam's covenants are forwarded in the *Prince of Wales's* packet, and when executed as usual before two witnesses (who are also to sign the same) they must be returned to us.

132. We have permitted Mr. George Livius (one of the writers appointed this season for your Presidency) to remain in England for the recovery of his health until next year without prejudice to his rank.

133. We have appointed Mr. Richard Foley (who has served many years as a Lieutenant in His Majesty's troops) a cadet in our forces on your establishment and do direct that upon his arrival in Bengal you grant him an ensign's commission to take rank next under Mr. Jonathan Woodford.

134. Should there be a person that goes by the name of Warwick Hawkey in any station whatever at your Presidency or the settlements subordinate to it, you must acquaint us therewith, and give us such particulars about him as may enable us to satisfy his friends here, who are respectable, and who have an inheritance to enjoy, should he be deceased.

135. As we are solicitous to acquire compleat charts and maps of the coasts and internal parts of India by means of such surveys as have been or may be made thereof, you must not fail to transmit to us by the first opportunity the most accurate copies of the journals of all such persons as have been employed at your Presidency in taking surveys, either by sea or land; and you are in like manner to send us from time to time copies of such as may in future be taken.

136. His Majesty having been graciously pleased to order the *Prudent* and *Intrepid* ships of war to proceed to the East Indies to reinforce the squadron under the command of Rear Admiral Sir Robert Harland Bart., we give you this notice that you may pursue the directions formerly given with respect to the King's ships. We apprehend the two above mentioned will sail the beginning of next month.

137. It having been represented to us that there remains in India about fourteen thousand pounds, part of the estate of the late William Watts Esqr., deceased, and his executors being very desirous of having the same remitted to England, we therefore direct that when you have occasion to pass any bills on us you receive the above sum into our cash and draw upon us for the same on the terms given to others.

138. We have drawn upon you the following setts of bills of exchange payable at 30 days sight and 2s. 2½d. the current rupee.

One set for rupees 3,169-13-0 payable to  
Mr. Richard Walker for pounds sterling  
350 received here of himself and dated 13th March, 1772. . . . . Rs. 3,169-13-0 £350

One set for rupees 452-13-4 payable to Francis  
Peat for pounds sterling 50 received here  
of George Peat and dated 23d March, 1772. . . . . Rs. 452-13-4 £ 50

139. Since writing the beforegoing, we have thought proper to appoint Richard Teasdale and Robert Gosling, writers upon your establishment, who are to take rank in this order next below William Haverkam.

London,  
25th March, 1772.  
(Per Grafton)

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
J. Purling / Geo. Dudley / J. Manship /  
Fredk. Pigou / John Roberts / Ja. Cock-  
burn / George Cuming / Jno. Wood-  
house / Joshua Smith / John Harrison /  
Henry Fletcher / J. Hurlock / Wm.  
James / Daniel Wier / Edwd. Wheler /  
L. Sullivan / Heny. Savage.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 23 SEPTEMBER 1772

*Shipping news—reiteration of the injunction that bills on the Company in any year should not exceed in value £1,00,000.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The following advices from your Presidency have been received since we wrote to you under date of the 25th March last.

General Letter, 30th August, 1771, received per *Stag*, man of war  
...Do.....15th and postscript of 26th November, per *Ponsborne*  
...Do.....10th and do.....24th January, 1772, per *Asia*  
...Do.....27th January.....do.....  
...Do.....20th February.....per *Lcrid Holland*.

Secret Department General Letter dated 30th August, 1771, received per  
*Stag*, man of war.

...Do.....15th November.....per *Ponsborne*

...Do.....10th January, 1772.....per *Asia*

Select Committee Letter dated 31st August, 1771, received per *Stag*,  
 man of war

...Do.....15th November.....per *Ponsborne*

...Do.....23d January, 1772.....per *Asia*.

2. We have taken up the under mentioned ships each of the burthen of 499 tons for the service of the present season which will be dispatched about the usual times:

<i>Kent</i>	. . . . . John Milles	. . . . . Madeira Coast and China
<i>Ponsborne</i>	. . . . . Samuel Hough	. . . . .
<i>Prime</i>	. . . . . James Dundas	. . . . . Bencoolen and China
<i>Princess Royal</i>	. . . . . Robert Ker	. . . . .
<i>Worcester</i>	. . . . . John Cook	. . . . .
<i>Huntingdon</i>	. . . . . Peter Pigou	. . . . . Coast and China
New ship	. . . . . John Rogers	. . . . .
Do.	. . . . . Edward Berrow . . . . .	. . . . . St. Helena and China
Do.	. . . . . Richard Morrison	. . . . . China
<i>Valentine</i>	. . . . . James Ogilvie	. . . . .
<i>Northington</i>	. . . . . John Sealy	. . . . . Madeira Coast and Bay
<i>Houghton</i>	. . . . . William Smith	. . . . .
New ship	. . . . . John Lauder . . . . .	. . . . . St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Duke of Portland</i>	. . . . . John Sutton . . . . .	. . . . . Bencoolen
<i>Bridgewater</i>	. . . . . Nicholas Skottowe	. . . . .
<i>Egmont</i>	. . . . . Charles Mears	. . . . .
<i>Harcourt</i>	. . . . . Nathaniel Paul	. . . . . Coast and Bay
<i>Latham</i>	. . . . . John Prince	. . . . .
<i>Hawke</i>	. . . . . John Cotton . . . . .	. . . . . Madeira and Bombay
<i>Resolution</i>	. . . . . Thomas Poynting . . . . .	. . . . . Bombay and Bengal
New ship	. . . . . Thomas Riddell . . . . .	. . . . . Bombay and China
<i>Europa</i>	. . . . . Henry Hinde Pelly . . . . .	. . . . . Bombay and Mocha
<i>Vansittart</i>	. . . . . Robert Young	. . . . .
<i>British King</i>	. . . . . Daniel Griffiths Hoare	. . . . . Bombay

3. Besides the foregoing ships we shall shortly dispatch a vessel we have lately built named the *Mercury* of the burthen of 210 tons commanded by Captain James Sharpe. We also intend taking up another ship which will be consigned to the Coast and China.

4. You will receive by this dispatch list of the arrival and departure of our shipping since the sailing of the *Prince of Wales*.

5. Although we have fully and repeatedly apprized you of the light in which we consider the license you have taken in deviating from our express and positive orders of 30th June, 1769, per *Lapwing* respecting your remittances through the Company's cash, yet the effects of your disobedience being of such a nature as may endanger the credit of the Company, we deem it necessary by this conveyance to renew our peremptory injunctions that you



do not on any account or pretence whatsoever issue bills for more than the amount of one hundred thousand pounds (exclusive of Lord Clive's *jaghire*<sup>1</sup> and certificates to commanders and officers of ships) payable in one year and at the rate of exchange expressed in our said orders per *Lapwing*, which orders are to continue in full force until we shall signify our further pleasure herein.

6. And as we have come to a resolution to send such supplies to our Council at Canton as we shall deem sufficient for the purposes of providing cargoes for the outward bound ships of the ensuing season, we hereby revoke the permission given you by our orders of 30th June, 1769, and 29th August, 1771, for drawing on us for such supplies in specie as you might be enabled to consign to China. And, it is our further pleasure that you do not send or permit to be sent by bullion or merchandize on private account with intent that the amount thereof be paid into our cash at Canton to be repaid by bills to be drawn on us by our servants there. However, we expect and require you to use your utmost endeavors to encrease our China stock from your own resources and thereby assist this important branch of our commerce without subjecting us to repayment in England for any consignment from your Presidency.

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Colebrooke / L. Sullivan / Edwd.  
Wheler / John Roberts / Ben. Booth /  
Thos. Dethick / W. Devaynes / Thos.  
Rumbold / Chas. Boddam / Jno. Michie /  
Pet. Lascelles / George Tatem / Joshua  
Smith / Ja. Cockburn / J. Manship /  
Hy. Crabb Boulton / Heny. Savage.

London,  
the 23d September, 1772.  
(Received overland,  
April 1773.)

21

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 24 NOVEMBER 1772

*Shipping news—composition of the Secret Committee of the Court—revocation of previous orders relating to residence of members of Council at the seat of the Presidency, and orders for posting Barwell, Reed and Lane to Chiefships in recognition of their meritorious services—financial crisis in the affairs of the Company: establishment to be reduced and investment in piece-goods and raw silk to be increased; Company's influence to be exercised to increase silk investment at the expense of private traders—further instructions relating to issue of bills on London.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Since we wrote to you overland (duplicate whereof is enclosed) we have received by the ships *Rochford* and *Clive* the und mentioned advices  
viz

on us by our servants their Honours writing  
and require you to use your utmost endeavour  
to encase our China Goods from your own  
Disorder and thereby assist this important  
branch of our Commerce without subjecting  
Us to repayment in England for any consequences  
from your Presidency.

London.  
the 23 September 1772.

We are  
Your loving Friends

G. Colburn

J. Smith

Edw. Smith

John Roberts

Bentworth

Thos. Dillick

W. Dwyer

Thos. Vennels

Thos. Bodden

Michie

Pet. Lascelles

George Patem

Joshua Smith

J. Lockburn

Manchig

Thos. Bodden

Ben Savage



General Letter, Public Department, dated 9 March, with postscript of [27th March, 1772].

Do.....do.....31st do. and do.....9th April

Do.....Secret Department 9th and 31st March

Do.....Select Committee 26th March and 1st April

2. By our last letter we acquainted you that we should shortly dispatch the Company's ship *Mercury* with advices for our several Presidencies. That ship being accordingly fitted for sea, we embrace this opportunity by her to convey to you our orders and directions upon such subjects as we judge to be proper for your more early information, reserving as we have usually done our fuller remarks on your advices received this season to be transmitted by some of the latter ships.

3. We have laden on the *Mercury* about 23 tons of lead and steel which is consigned to your Presidency. She is first to call at Fort St. George to land her packets, from whence she is to be dispatched immediately for Bengal.

4. The principal design of this ship's being consigned to your Presidency is for the purpose of being returned to us with your dispatches, thinking her a more speedy conveyance than any of our freighted ships; but should our President and Council at Fort St. George want her for their own service, they are at liberty to alter her destination on concerting with you the necessary steps for that purpose.

5. Since our last letter to you we have taken up the ship *Lord Mansfield*, Captain William Fraser, and instead of consigning her to the Coast and China as therein advised, we shall send her to the Coast and Bay.

6. The said ship *Lord Mansfield* with the *Latham* will shortly be dispatched for the Coast and Bay, and the *Northington* and *Houghton* will be ordered to call at Madeira to take in the 150 pipes of wine for your Presidency, for whose information our correspondents at that island are ordered to transmit the customary papers.

7. Our servants at Bombay will be ordered to send round to Bengal the ship *Resolution*, as mentioned in our letter of the 23 September, also the *British King*, which are both to be dispatched home from Bengal or Fort St. George as shall be agreed upon between you and our servants at the Coast.

8. The following gentlemen compose our Secret Committee for the present direction, *vizt.*, Sir George Colebrooke, Bart., Chairman, Laurence Sullivan Esqr., Deputy Chairman, Henry Crabb Boulton, John Manship, and Henry Savage Esqrs., who are empowered to take such precautions as they shall judge necessary for the safety of the Company[']s ships and settlements. The orders therefore that they or any thr[ee] of them shall give for those purposes must be punctually obeyed.

9. Having revised and maturely considered of the orders given in the 179th paragraph of our letter of the 23d March, 1770, for confining the residence of the members of the Council the seat of the Presidency, and not suffering any of the Board, the Resident of the Durbar excepted, to act as Chiefs of any of the subordinate factories, and finding that notwithstanding our well-intentioned views expressed at the time of establishing the above mentioned dispositions that they have not been attended with those salutary effects we



then hoped they would produce, we can no longer desist from revoking, and do hereby revoke the aforesaid orders, confiding that thereby the regularity of the Government in Bengal will be greatly promoted and the intolerable monopolies carried on in the country, so oppressive to the inhabitants and prejudicial to our revenues and investment, particularly of raw silk, will be totally extirpated.

10. Upon this repeal of our said directions, and in consideration of the essential services and merits of Mr. Richard Barwell whilst he was Resident at Bauleah and on other occasions, we hereby direct that he be appointed to the Chiefship of Dacca, if he shall make that appointment his choice.

11. And as the conduct of Messrs. Reed and Lane in support of a proper obedience to the orders of the Court of Directors per *Lapwing* in 1770 was meritorious, we direct that they be preferred to Chiefships of the subordinate factories on the first vacancies that shall happen after your receipt of this letter, in proof of our constant desire to distinguish those who shall maintain the propriety of a due execution of such orders.

12. From our repeated orders on the subject of remittances by draughts on us you have been thoroughly warned of the difficulties that we apprehended would one day befall the Company from your acting contrary thereto. That day is now come upon us, and we are laboring under the greatest pressure in regard to a want of cash that we ever yet felt, and indeed the want is so great that nothing but the aid we shortly expect from Parliament can possibly give us relief at present. Your unwarrantable conduct in drawing on us last year for upwards of one million sterling, added to the imprudence of our servants at Bombay in that respect, and the further sum of one million the Company will lose by indemnity on tea,<sup>1</sup> have been the means of creating these difficulties. However, bad and disagreeable as our situation is, it behoves us to take the most eligible methods to yield us future supplies; and those appear to us to be a reduction of our civil and military expences in India, and the procuring a large and ample investment in the choicest piece goods that the country of Bengal can produce that are proper for the Europe market, with the largest returns in raw silk that are possible. In regard to piece goods, Mr. Guinand, from his great knowledge in that branch of commerce, will sufficiently guide you as to the proper assortments; nor will Messrs. Wiss and Robinson, whose assortments of raw silk already sent u[s] have met with the most general approbation, be less able to afford you assistance in that article. And we most earnestly recommend that neither care or attention be wanting on your part to effectuate the great objects, as well by procuring a large investment as reducing your civil and military charges; for should you discover a supineness or negligence in these matters when our affairs call aloud for the exertion of your utmost abilities, we shall not fail to shew that just resentment on those who may so offend that is at all times though necessary, yet one of the most displeasing parts of our duty as Directors.

13. Should large provisions have been made in raw silk by private traders before you receive these orders, we would have you offer them a reasonable profit on their purchases, that our view to obtain a large and valuable investment may not be frustrated. And in regard to a future season (for you must continue the same exertion for two seasons at least) we would have you exercise

your authority and influence within the bounds of justice to cause sufficient purchases to be made in behalf of the Company in preference to private traders.

14. In addition to our orders of the 23 September last you must invariably observe it as a standing rule not to pass any bills or certificates (except those for the amount of the adventures of the commanders and officers of our ships) on us but by the two last ships of the season that sail from Calcutta, nor to draw for a larger sum than permitted by our letter of 23d September last, as we are determined in case of disobedience to return the bills above that sum back again to Bengal unaccepted. And it is our further order that in the bills we allow you to draw at 365 days sight you leave it at our option to pay the same at two years' end; and should we think proper [to] accept them on the latter term, we shall have no objection to pay them at the rate of 2s. 3¼d. a current rupee without allowing any interest.

15. Notwithstanding anything said in the preceding paragraph you are hereby absolutely prohibited drawing bills or passing certificates upon us for any sums or in favor of any persons whatsoever in the year 1773, except certificates only for such sums as the commanders and officers of our freighted ships are permitted according to our standing orders in their instructions to pay into our cash in part of their privilege, observing that we include in this prohibitory order your draughts for Lord Clive's *jaghire*, or for any money we have heretofore permitted you to receive for bills on us; and you are further positively enjoined to make all possible savings in each branch of our affairs, for the distresses of the Company are such as immediately and loudly call for every assistance and the retrenching every expence.

16. In consequence of your request in the 37th paragraph of your General Letter of the 10th January, 1772, we have obtained and herewith send you an attested copy of His Majesty's free pardon for Thomas Power and James Herring.

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Colebrooke / Lau. Sullivan / Hy.  
Crabb Boulton / Joshua Smith / Heny.  
Savage / Edwd. Wheler / W. Devaynes /  
Ja. Cockburn / Pet. Lascelles / Chas.  
Boddam / Peter DuCane Junr. / Thos.  
Dethick / Rd. Bosanquet / Henry Flet-  
cher / J. Hurlock / George Cuming /  
Thos. Rumbold / John Roberts / Jno  
Michie / Robt. Gregory / Ben Booth /  
George Dempster / George Tatem.

London,  
24th November, 1772.  
(Per *Mercury*)

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 11 DECEMBER 1772

*Appointment of a Parliamentary Committee to enquire into the Company's affairs—articles of export to the various Presidencies—appointments to the Council of Supercargoes in China—supply of troops and civil personnel.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1. By the *Mercury* we wrote to you under date of the 24th November, duplicate and triplicate whereof you will receive by the *Latham* and *Lord Mansfield*; and for the particulars of their consignment to your Presidency, you are referred to the invoices and bills of lading.

2. In our former letters of this season you have been acquainted with the critical situation of the Company's affairs, and by our ship *Mercury* we enclosed for your perusal the King's speech at the opening of the present session; in consequence thereof committee[s] have been appointed to enquire into the state and condition of the Company's affairs, both at home and abroad. The measures which may be pursued in consequence of their reports to the two Houses of Parliament indispensibly occasion such particular and constant attention on our part as at present to deprive us of the opportunity of entering into a reply at large to your advices now before us, and therefore our remarks and directions thereon are necessarily suspended until the departure of the latter ships of this season.

3. The principal articles of our exports in merchandize and stores for our several Presidencies consist of the following particulars, *vizt.*,

*For Bengal*

Cloth 552 bales; long ells 100 bales; and 51 bales of broad long ells; lead 200 tons; copper 245 tons; iron 100 tons; gunpowder 900 barrels and Madeira wine 200 pipes; musquets five thousand one hundred.

*For Fort St. George*

Cloth 954 bales; long ells 51 bales and two bales of flannels; lead 160 tons; iron 150 tons; copper 180 tons and 6 tons of steel; gunpowder 550 barrels; Madeira wine 150 pipes; musquets nine thousand.

*For the Presidency of Bombay*

For the Bombay market:—Cloth 910 bales; long ells 270 bales; lead 180 tons; iron 100 tons; copper 305 tons and. steel 60 tons: Madeira

wine 50 pipes; 40 half puncheons<sup>1</sup> of Irish beef and 30 of pork; musquets 900.

*For the Bussora market*:—cloth 219 bales, and 269 bales of long ells of ten pieces each.

*For Scindy*:—fifty bales of cloth, and twenty-five bales of long ells.

*For Fort Marlborough*

Lead 20 tons, and iron 20 tons; gunpowder 50 barrels.

*For China*

Cloth 1,346 bales, and 1,100 bales of long ells; lead 500 tons.

4. The foregoing intended consignments will be laden on the ships bound to the Coast and Bay, except two hundred and forty barrels of gunpowder which are sent by the way of Bombay.

5. As our Presidency of Fort Marlborough will stand in need of many articles which we are unable to furnish them with, we shall therefore trust on your complying with their indents in the fullest manner.

6. We have appointed Messrs. Alexander Hume, Edward Phipps, Francis Wood, William Rous, Thomas Bevan, William Harrison, Matthew Raper, John Bradby Blake, James Bradshaw, William Henry Pigou and George Rogers, to be the Council of Supracargoes<sup>2</sup> in China for the ships to be consigned thither this season and to be Residents there in the year 1774.

7. We shall rely upon your giving this important branch of our commerce all the aid it may require consistently with the orders given in our former letters of this season.

8. We have appointed several volunteers for your pilot service, who are to take rank agreeable to the list which will be hereafter sent and to be employed in your marine to the greatest advantage of the Company.

9. We have resolved to supply you this season with thirty writers to supply such vacancies as through casualties may have happened in our civil establishment; such of them as may proceed on either of the before-mentioned ships, you are to receive and employ on their producing to you the counterparts of their covenants until we shall by a future conveyance communicate to you their rank and our other further orders regarding them.

10. Henry Chicheley Plowden and Philip Cole, whom we have appointed writers at your Presidency, are serving as cadets at Fort St. George. We have therefore directed that they be acquainted with their appointment and ordered to proceed to Bengal by the first opportunity; their covenants, as well as those of Mr. Thomas Hoissard appointed a writer in Bengal, who is at present there, are inclosed in the *Lord Mansfield's* packet, and are to be executed, witnessed and returned by the first ship.



11. Upon consideration of the return of the troops serving on your establishment, we have determined to recruit the same with four hundred and ninety men, which you will receive on the ships consigned to the Coast and Bay.

12. We have also resolved to recruit our Fort St. George establishment with three hundred and fifty men to be embarked in nearly equal proportions on the Coast and China ships ; but you are to observe that none of these are to be detained by them except under the most unavoidable extremity.

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Colebrooke / L. Sullivan / Hy. Crabb  
Boulton / George Dempster / George  
Cuming / J. Hurlock / Henry Fletcher /  
George Tatem / W. Devaynes / Edwd.  
Wheler / Chas. Boddam / Robt. Gre-  
gory / Jno. Michie / Ben. Booth / J.  
Manship / Pet. Lascelles / Thos. Dethick.

London,  
11th December, 1772.  
(Per *Latham*.)

LETTERS TO COURT



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 3 JANUARY 1770

*Arrival of the Lapwing with despatches—no news of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Kingston.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. As we have reason to imagine the ships *Lioness* and *Royal Charlotte* have not yet left Ingellee, we have sent these despatches express down the river in hopes they will arrive in time to be conveyed to you by these ships.

2. We have had the honour to receive your letter dated the 30th of June and a duplicate of the one dated the 11th May by the *Lapwing* which arrived with us this day.

3. Captain Gardener was under the necessity of putting in at Achin from want of water, where he staid a few days and left it the 3d ultimo. But we are sorry to inform you that he does not bring any accounts either of the *Prince of Wales* or *Duke of Kingston*, and we are the more concerned at not hearing any news of them from thence as it was the most probable place to have heard of them.

We have the honor to be with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
Floyer / Joseph Jekyll.

Fort William,  
the 3d January 1770.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1770

*Shipping news: arrival of the Prince of Wales at Bombay; accident to the Duke of Kingston—the affair of Dundas at Pegu—matters relating to indents and disposal of goods—investment at Cossimbazar to be by contract—Bombay Government's, request for eight lakhs in specie partially met—efforts to increase export of raw silk—instructions relative to trade with Nepal, Tibet and Western China, and the expedition of Logan to Nepal—progress in the building of barracks at Dinaipur, etc.—proposal to establish a foundry at Patna to cast mortars—fears about famine confirmed: rent remissions—currency reform—personnel matters and accounts: the case of Bolts—non-payment of certain bills relative to Navy Donation presented by the French*



—*protest against the appointment of Special Commissioners to superintend the affairs of the Company in India.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have already had the honour to write you very fully by the ships *Ankerwyke*, *Hampshire*, *Lyonesse* and *Royal Charlotte*; and by this ship the *Duke of Grafton* we shall proceed to give you, under the usual heads, such further information regarding your affairs here as is requisite.

*First of Shipping.*

2. You were informed in the 4th paragraph of our letter dated the 23d of November that we had destined the *Britannia* to touch upon the Coast for 180 tons of bale goods which the gentlemen at Madrass expected to have ready the beginning of this month; she was accordingly dispatched the 20th of December and hath sailed for that Presidency.

3. They have since acquainted us that they think they can depend on providing at least one hundred tons more and have therefore requested we would order a ship to touch there for this quantity of goods so as to receive her final dispatches by the end of February or beginning of March; and for this service we have appointed the *Anson*.

4. The season had advanced so far without our receiving any intelligence of the *Duke of Kingston* and *Prince of Wales* that we began to be under some apprehensions for their safety. We were however relieved from our anxiety a few days ago by advices from Bombay informing us that the latter ship had put in at their port the 21st November last, where she had been drove by contrary winds, currents and other accidents.

5. We are sorry to inform you that the *Duke of Kingston* had the misfortune to run ashore at St. Iago and it was with the utmost difficulty she was got safe to Rio Janeiro, where they carried her in order to be repaired. Captain Court sailed from thence in company with the *Marquis of Rockingham* the 3d of July, and for a more particular account of the disaster of the *Duke of Kingston* and the various causes that have occasioned the late arrival of the *Prince of Wales* we beg leave to send you a number in the packet a copy of the letter addressed to the Governour and Council of Bombay by Captain Court, which they forwarded to us.

6. We have the pleasure to acquainting you that on the 20th of November last the *Marquis of Rockingham* was seen off Mount Delly standing into Tellicherry.

7. We think there is not the least doubt but that the *Duke of Kingston* and *Prince of Wales* will arrive in time to be returned this season, and we hope we shall not be disappointed in our expectations as we shall have cargoes ready for them both. Indeed so strongly are we of this opinion that

we have declined a proposal made us by the gentlemen at Fort St. George to send a cargo from hence to them lest either of these ships should not be able to make this port.

8. In obedience to your orders contained in the 4th paragraph of your letter dated the 17th of March 1769, the commanders and officers of your ships have been strictly prohibited lading on board any other articles than are allowed in your present indulgence, and directed to deliver in upon oath a manifest of their private trade, which we hope in future will prevent any branch of your trade being infringed by them.

9. We have required payment from the owners of the *Lord Anson* of Consn. 10 Decem- the amount of damages you sustained by that ship.  
ber.

10. Captain Lennox having applied to carry home any quantity of un-serviceable stores that we might have to send to England, we have laden on board this ship as kentli[e]dge about 17 tons in weight of old guns and 1,327 musket barrells of different sorts.

11. The gentlemen of the Select Committee having represented to us that they were in want of tonnage to transport between two and three hundred troops from Fort St. George to Bombay, we have agreed Consn. 12 De- cember. with the owners of the *Success* galley to carry round three hundred men with their officers for the sum of 8,000 rupees.

12. In our letter of the 25th of September, paragraph 17, we acquainted you that the ship *St. Helena* had been sent on a voyage to Pigue for timbers on your account under the command of Captain William Justice.

13. It is with the utmost concern we are now to inform you, gentlemen, that you are no longer to entertain the pleasing hopes you had conceived of the King of Pigue's favourable intentions from this gift of the *St. Helena*, nor are we any longer to expect any benefits will accrue to you from those favourable sentiments His Majesty expressed towards the English.

14. Instead of reaping any advantages from the gift of this ship, we are sorry to find that we have been led into embarrassments, trouble and expence. In short the whole transaction appears little better than a complicated scene of imposition practised by one Mr. Richard Dundass, a man of low extraction and no principles, but who hath by his artifice and cunning so far ingratiated himself into the King of Pigue's favor, that he is protected by him and supported in every act of tyeranny and oppression he pleases to exercise over his countrymen who trade thither.

15. From the President's minute entered on Consultation the 2nd of February 1767 and the various papers recorded on the same day's proceedings, you will find there were several persons [who] claimed a share in this ship and cargo, that the claims were settled by arbitration and several of the demands paid.

16. Some however were not finally adjusted on account of some depending lawsuits, but which were intended to be discharged as soon as they could be properly ascertained. When Captain Justice arrived at Pigue, Mr. Dundas in the King's name made a demand upon him for the enormous sum of

1,12,098 rupees under various pretences and on various accounts, many of which seem to have no better foundation than Mr. Dundasse's own interest. But he insists on their being paid and on detaining both Captain Justice and the ship untill they are discharged.

17. The ship we would willingly relinquish to free you from such exorbitant demands so unjustly founded, and recommended it strongly to Captain Justice to make this proposal to His Majesty. But our honour is engaged for the safety of Captain Justice, and there does not appear to us a probability of procuring his liberty but by paying these demands unjust as they are, for Mr. Dundass in his present situation is quite absolute, his will is a law, he is under no controul, he is screened from justice, and he is not actuated either by honour or integrity, so that it is hardly probable he will be satisfied with any other consideration than the amount of his demands.

18. In these circumstances there is no alternative but paying the money Mr. Dundass demands or suffering Captain Justice to fall a sacrifice to his resentment. We could not hesitate a moment in our choice and have agreed on the former measure and accordingly procured letters of credit on some Armenian merchants for the above mentioned amount, which we conveyed to Captain Justice by the hands of his chief mate Mr. Brown, whom he sent hither from Pigue.

19. At the same time we wrote to him in the most pressing terms to use every means in his power to have it represented to His Majesty how ungenerously and unjustly you had been treated, to exert every possible endeavour to accomodate matters without paying this enormous sum. We desired him rather than pay these demands to relinquish the ship and not to make use of the letters of credit untill he found all his endeavours ineffectual.

20. This is a summary detail of the embarrasements we have been brought into on account of this ship. But the letters received from and sent to Captain Justice, and the demands made by Mr. Dundass, together with every other paper regarding this affair, are entered in a separate Consultation which makes a number in this packet and to which we beg leave to refer you for a more particular information. As soon as we are acquainted with the result of our advices to Pegu and the issue of this affair we hall not fail to inform you.

21. We are afraid it is impracticable to put your pilot service here on so respectable a footing as you wish and we could desire. The prospects in this department of your service are not such as to excite any great degree of emulation; and we are sorry to say that one great and principal obstacle to the effecting of this plan is the persons who engage in this way of life, for they are in general men of low extraction and mean education, and indeed it would put you to a most enormous expence to make it worth the while of men of different characters to embark in this scheme. Upon the whole therefore we are of opinion it must continue on its present system and we must be careful to take all the measures in our power for the pilots acquiring a perfect knowledge of the river.

22. The usual annual survey of the river has been made by the Master Attendant and his observations are recorded on Court notes the 24th July

*Secondly of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another.*

23. We send you in this packet the indents of our several storekeepers and request they may be fully complied with. In order to avoid mistakes and confusion and to prevent any complaints of the like nature with those you made in your letter of the 17th of March last, we have directed the quantity of each article to be specified in letters as well as figures, and this method we shall always observe for the future.

24. We have been obliged this year to request a supply of naval stores from the Presidency of Madrass, and as we are frequently  
 Consn. 22 May. distressed by our indents not being fully complied with, we hope, gentlemen, you will comply with the request we have before made.

25. The reason of our indent for iron guns in the year 1768 being so large was not owing to any mistake as you imagine; for  
 General Letter from 17 March 1769, para 13. we beg leave to inform you that these guns are not for the use of your marine solely but for the benefit of private ships likewise, as it is absolutely necessary they should be supplied with these articles for protection of their trade in many parts of India where they send their goods to, and they have no other means of procuring them.

26. The usual method practised heretofore of paying duties upon the investments brought out on privilege by the commanders of your charter party ships has been to put an advance of 40 per cent upon the prime cost and to collect duties on the whole amount. But as the market hath been overstocked of late years and their profits in consequence considerably decreased we have been induced at their representations of these circumstances to reduce the duty and to levy it upon no greater advance than 20 per cent.

27. Many articles having been bought at your sales of Europe imports and not cleared out in due time were resold, from whence  
 Consn. 12 December. there arose some loss. But we have called upon the former purchasers to make good this deficiency and shall take care to recover the amount that is due from them.

28. We must however on this occasion beg leave to represent the case of Mr. Lloyd, one of your servants on the civil list who made considerable purchases with a view of sending the goods into Shujah Dowlah's country; but sometime afterwards our prohibition of trading thither took place and the prices of Europe staples immediately fell. Being thus deprived of the market he intended them for and their price considerably reduced he was not able to clear them out, and they were resold at outcry with a loss to the amount of 31,520 rupees.

29. He hath represented to us his inability to bear so heavy a loss, and requested we would remit the penalty he has incurred; but as we do not esteem ourselves authorized to comply with his request we beg leave to refer it to you and to send you a copy of his letter a number in the packet, and we make not the least doubt, gentlemen, but he will meet with at your hands all the indulgence the nature of his plea will admit of.

30. Mr. Myrtle, whom you were pleased to grant permission to return to India in order to prosecute the fir trade<sup>1</sup>, was sent up to the Morung country



for this purpose. But we are sorry to inform you he was unfortunately cut off by a band of *synasses* or *faquirs*<sup>2</sup> who, after murdering, plundered him of all his effects and carried off the money advanced to him on your account to assist him in his undertaking.

31. The Import Warehouse Keeper's report of the Madeira and Vidonia wines imported here this season by the ships *Brittannia* and *Royal Charlotte* and *Lord Holland* makes a number in this packet from which you will observe that the wine is rather preferable to that imported last season, and permit us here again to request that you would be pleased not to send out any more Vidonia wine, since the superior quality of Madeira makes it so much preferred that the Vidonia will not sell for prime cost.

32. We have the pleasure to inform you that the medicines which have been sent out here this season from Apothecaries Hall are the best of their respective sorts and were well packed, as will appear by the report of the head surgeon which makes a number in the packet.

33. You have been pleased to order that we shall send 3 pipes of Madeira wine to your island of St. Helena. But as our present stock will afford a more ample supply we have sent them six pipes.

### *Thirdly of investment.*

34. Some of the silk piece goods which have been provided at Cossimbuzar agreeable to the musters sent out in 1767 will turn out something dearer than usual as they are both superior in quality and colour. The  
 Consn. 27th June. crimson and garnet will be near fifty per cent. dearer than usual on account of their being dyed with cochineal. But as the colours are much superior to any that have hitherto been provided and the quantity not very considerable we have directed our Chief and Council of that factory to purchase the full proportions of these goods which you have been pleased to order in your list of investment.

35. In our letter of the 25th of September 1769, paragraphs 45 and 46, you were informed of our having resolved to change the mode of conducting your investment at Cossimbuzar and to provide it by contract. You were likewise informed that our motives for this resolution were the hopes of putting the trade on a more free and open footing, of preventing monopolies and removing oppressions, of giving encouragement to the merchant and manufacturer, and of affording ease and security to the native. This plan we have accordingly carried into execution and contracted for the November *bund*<sup>3</sup>, and we shall be happy to find that the salutary end we propose by this system is answered. Although it may be the means of enhancing the price of your investments very considerably, yet to us this is not an object to be considered in competition with the other, nor from your letters does it appear to be so in your eyes.

36. It appeared evident to us from your sentiments in your letter of the 17th March last that you are desirous of receiving as large an investment from hence as we can possibly provide and that by any means that will not distress you. Our prospects of the present year's investment, fair as they were, would not admit us to hope we should have it in our power to fulfill



your wishes in this point. We therefore conceived it would be a measure you would approve were we to purchase from private merchants such goods as will answer for the Europe markets by interest notes. Added to this consideration, we had a further motive, which was that as we had then planned the scheme of opening your treasury and granting bills upon England, these purchases would assist you to answer the draughts we might make. We therefore came to the resolution of purchasing goods by these means and have bought up a quantity to the amount of current rupees 5,30,597-2-3.

37. We should imagine that three lettered raw silk is an article which will answer extremely well to you; and we are the more inclined to this opinion from the large quantities sent to Europe by the French, from whence we may deduce this reasonable argument that if it answers to them it will also answer to you. Indeed, gentlemen, so strongly are we of this opinion that we have determined to try the experiment and directed this article to be purchased in the same manner as we have just informed you we had purchased other goods, and we shall be very happy if your sentiments on this occasion confirm the ideas we have entertained on this subject.

38. The gentlemen of Bombay have applied to us for no less a sum than 17,79,819 rupees to defray their charges and provide their investment, and desired that 8 lacks of this sum may be sent to them in specie.

39. It is utterly out of our power to comply with this last request. Our own occasions and the general scarcity of silver specie are inseparable obstacles to it. We have strenuously recommended it to the Resident at the Durbar to procure as many bills in favor of the gentlemen at Bombay as he possibly can and to watch every opportunity that may offer. We have likewise granted them liberty to draw upon us for any sum they may want. And finally we have sent them 3 lacks of rupees in specie on the *Verelst*. In a word we have done all in our power and shall continue to exert our best endeavours to supply them with the sum they require.

40. The cultivation of the mulberry plants and the extension of your investments on the article of raw silk are objects of our constant attention, and on every occasion that presents itself we strenuously recommend them to the attention of the rest of your servants. As will more fully appear in our instructions to the Collector General on this subject of the 13th of July and 14th of August, we have issued your orders regarding this branch of trade to the Resident at the Durbar and the Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar and enforced them with injunctions from ourselves to have them strictly obeyed.

41. Mr. Chamier shall be employed in the manner you direct and shall have the allowances you have been pleased to appoint.

*Fourthly of the trade of India, the country Governments and European powers.*

42. You have been pleased to desire us in your letter of the 16th March 1768, para. 41, to obtain the best intelligence we can whether a trade can be opened with Napaul, and whether cloth and other European commodities may not find their way to Thibet, Lassa and the western parts of China. We beg leave to inform you

Consn. 31st October.

that Mr. James Logan, one of your surgeons on the military establishment who accompanied Captain Kinloch<sup>4</sup> on his expedition to Napaul, and who is a perfect master of the language and has a temper capable of conforming to the customs of the country, hath undertaken a journey to Napaul with this view. As he has had some opportunities of making himself acquainted with several particulars regarding the trade of these countries and is well versed in the language, we judged him a very proper person to attempt the discoveries you want to make and we have furnished him with such credentials as are requisite to assist him in (what we esteem) an hazardous enterprize.

*Fifthly of fortifications, buildings, and revenues.*

43. You complain, Gentlemen, of our purchasing houses out of the Fort and seem to think that it carries the appearance of our not having any intention to inhabit it. Permit us to remark to you on this occasion that we do not think it prudent to finish any of the interior buildings untill the projected works are compleated and the Fort put into a state of defence, and we hope we shall have no further occasion to put you to any more expence on this account.

44. We have given you our opinion that the cantonments at Dinapore have been carried on with as much frugality and expedition as possible. Some additions to the original plan have been indispensably necessary for the accomodation of officers in consequence of the encrease of the military establishment, and two new barracks are now carrying on, which when finished will compleat the cantonments.

General Letter to  
-25 September,  
para. 41.  
Consn. 4 January.

45. The completion of your fortifications is an object we have much at heart, and are taking every possible means to accomplish it. We have given directions to the Resident at the Durbar to engage as many coolies as is in his power and to send them down from the city. We have given the like directions to the Collector General, and we have requested the *Foujedar* of Houghley to afford us his assistance in procuring workmen. Every possible encouragement is given to induce people to come to the works, and every means in our power made use of. We hope that by continuing to exert our endeavors to have the fortifications finished we shall in a few years see an end put to the very heavy expence you have for so many [years] been at on this account.

46. We have already informed you that Major Du Gloss had been employed by General Smith at Patna in casting field pieces and that he had succeeded, equal to the General's most sanguine expectations, not only in casting field pieces but also mortars. As we have a large quantity of old brass and damaged guns that may recast with very little expence and are much in want of mortars, we have determined to establish a foundery at the Presidency under the inspection of Major Du Gloss, and have directed the Collector General and Chief Engineer to look out for a proper spot for this purpose.

47. Lieutenant Colonel Campbell<sup>5</sup> and Major Watson having acquainted us that the ground they have fixed upon for building their docks is full of holes and at present very unfit for any part of their undertaking, and requested

our permission to clear and level the same in order to have everything ready and prepared and no obstacle to retard them at the time they may be at liberty to begin their buildings. We have been induced, from a due reflection on the importance of this subject, particularly should His Majesty send out a fleet to this part of the world, and in consequence of these gentlemen pledging their honour to us not to employ any cooley or *bildar* who is not brought 100 miles from Calcutta, and not to employ more than 300, to grant them permission immediately to fill up and levell the ground.

48. We are sorry to acquaint you that the apprehensions we expressed to you in our letter of the 23d of November last regarding the consequence of

the uncommon drought that has prevailed are confirmed,  
 Consn. [30?] and this general calamity is severely felt in all the provinces.  
 November.

The Collector General hath laid before us a representation on this occasion from the Rajah and the Resident of Burdwan proposing a remission to be made in the rents this year; and so sensible are we of the melancholy truth of what they set forth that we have been induced to grant

a remission to the farmers of the Burdwan Province of  
 Consn. [...th] about 2½ or three lacks of rupees, taking care that they  
 November. also extend it to the ryotts, and at the time of granting it

bring both the farmers and ryotts under engagements that the same shall be replaced at certain periods along with their rents of next year; and we have desired the Collector General to adopt the system in the Calcutta lands, which equally require the same indulgence.

49. By this method we hope to releive the farmer and the ryott who in this time of dearth and distress claim all the indulgence and assistance we can afford; and we also hope that by this method you will only suffer a temporary inconvenience, not a total loss, and if the next should be a plentiful year that these remissions will be recovered.

50. We have assured you in our letter of 25th September 1769, and we here beg leave to repeat it, that your orders for the abolition of the *batta* on *sonauts* shall be carried into execution. We have already adopted a measure which we hope will prove an introductory step to it, that is fixing the same marks on all *siccas* coined in the mints of Moorshedabad, Dacca and Patna, which though of the same fineness and weight were coined with such marks as made it easy to the *shroffs* to distinguish from what mints they came, and from this knowledge they took many unfair advantages.

51. With regard to the gold coinage which we have before advised you was established in order to alleviate the general distress of the merchants arising from the great scarcity of silver specie that prevailed, we have the pleasure to inform you it hath in some degree answered the desirable end; and as the coin hath from its purity been universally esteemed and received with general satisfaction, we flatter ourselves you will not disapprove our conduct in suffering the present establishment to remain untill we are honored with your sentiments in answer to what we have already written on the subject.

52. In our letter of the 23rd November last we informed you that we had appointed Messrs. Read, Jekyll, Lane and Barwell to succeed to seats in Council. Mr. Jekyll and Mr. Barwell have since taken their seats, and Mr. Read and Mr. Lane have been directed to repair to the Presidency.

*Sixthly and seventhly of covenanted and military servants and accounts.*

53. The number of the members of the Board hath been so small of late and the business of every department is so greatly encreased that it has been out of our power to continue the Committee of Inspection<sup>6</sup>. But as we have an encrease of members we shall renew the institution.

54. We are sorry to inform you that you have lost the services of a valuable servant by the death of Mr. William Majendie, who died at Patna the 3d of October last.

55. Since our advices of the 25th of September Messrs. Charters, Legh, Stewart and Grant, whom you have been pleased to appoint  
 Consn. 14 Novem- writers on this establishment, have arrived and have been  
 ber. stationed in different offices at the Presidency.

56. In consideration of the long services of Mr. Tyso Saul Hancock and his experience in his profession, we have been induced to  
 Consn. 26 Octo- indulge him so far as to appoint him a supernumerary  
 ber. Surgeon at the Presidency but not to rise, and we hope, gentlemen, that from the same motives you will be pleased to confirm this appointment.

57. General Smith having recommended the appointment of a Surgeon General to the army and set forth many advantages it will be attended with in a minute he delivered in on the subject in Consultation the 8th of November, we agreed it should take place and appointed Mr. James Anderson Surgeon General with an allowance of ten shillings per day.

58. We are concerned to inform you of the death of Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Kindersley.

59. In consequence hereof we have appointed Major Thomas Pearse to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and to the command of your Corps of Artillery, although from your orders of the 17 March 1769, Colonel Ralph Winwoud<sup>7</sup> had some pretensions to this appointment. But in consideration of the peculiar circumstances of Major Pearse we conferred this rank on him. This gentleman from your orders in March 1768 might expect and would have succeeded to the command of artillery on the resignation of Lieutenant Colonel Martin had not Mr. Kindersley obtained the rank of Major previous to his arrival. This was a great disappointment to him, and he would now suffer as great a hardship in being superceeded by Colonel Winwoud. Besides you have been pleased to provide for that gentleman in the meantime by appointing him to the infantry. We therefore hope that these reasons will be satisfactory to you for having given the command of the Corps of Artillery to Major Pearse.

60. As a reward for the long and faithfull services of Captain Du Gloss  
 Consn. 8 Novem- we have appointed him a Major by brevet, but not to rise  
 ber. higher.

61. We have restored Mr. James Watts to his rank in the service as you have been pleased to recommend.

62. Messrs. Joseph Bruce and David Hume, two officers who were concerned in the general resignation, have also been restored  
 Consn. 14 Nov- to your service with the rank of Captains,  
 ember,



63. Captains Goddard and Actmooty<sup>8</sup> [Ahmuty?] having solicited to obtain the rank which they would have held had they not been concerned in the resignation of the officers, it became a subject of debate at the Board. But the majority being for granting their request, these gentlemen have been restored to their former ranks in the service.

64. Lieutenant Colonel Champion hath requested of us to indulge him with a share of the commission on the revenues from the 1st September 1768; and this request he founds on the plea of his reappointment to the service having taken place before the general orders regarding the field officers being entitled to this indulgence were issued, that had he been in India he would have been entitled to it, and that his remaining another year in England was an act of necessity, not of choice.

65. Although we must confess we do not see Colonel Champion's pretensions to this indulgence in the same point of view as he himself does, yet in consideration of his long and approved services we take the liberty of referring his request to your decision.

66. The Military Paymaster General having made a demand upon the attornies of Mr. Parker Hatley for the ballance of 10,240 rupees that appear against that gentleman in the Paymaster General's books, they refused to discharge it as they have no instructions from him to authorize them to pay this sum. We therefore beg leave to refer the matter to you, gentlemen, to be settled by you in England with Mr. Hatley. The account current with him is entered in Consultation the 16th November last.

67. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the books of this Presidency are now closing, and shall without fail be transmitted to you together with the books of all the subordinate factories by the next ship that sails for England.

68. In this packet we have the satisfaction to send you the Military Paymaster General's books brought up to April 1767, and as two setts more are now ballancing which will compleat them to April 1769, we shall transmit them to you by the next ships.

69. The cloathing for recruits being furnished by the Company it has been usual to write off as it is advanced all money paid to the agents for that purpose under the head of contingent charges in the Military Paymaster's books. But as this method is liable to error we have directed a head to be opened of *Agent for the Cloathing of Recruits*—which at the end of the year may be closed by contingent charges.

70. Many bills of exchange that have been drawn by the paymasters of the different brigades in favor of the President and Council amounting to current rupees 25,72,413-14, which never having been tendered have never been paid and remain therefore on ballance under the head of bills payable on the close of Military Paymaster General's books ending April 1767. We have ordered to be wrote off to General Books, as these bills are all in favor of the President and Council and probably will not now ever appear, and continuing them on the books only tends to create intricacy.



71. In the Paymaster General's books ending April 1766, Mr. Charles Stuart, Agent for the Buxar prize money, stands indebted in the sum of current rupees 3,24,000 advanced him by Mr. Sage, Paymaster at Benaras. As this ballance had never been liquidated the Paymaster General addressed Mr. Stuart on the subject, and from the account he gave of the transaction it appeared from his answer that instead of 3,24,000 Rs. the ballance against that gentleman was no more than current rupees 12,879-9.

72. Mr. Stuart had written an explanation of the whole transaction so long ago as 1765, but by some mistake the letter was never recorded, and the matter hath laid dormant ever since untill it was lately  
 Consn. 23 Janu-  
 ary 1770. revived in ballancing the books of that office. We had the General Books referred to in order to discover if any-thing of this matter appeared on them, and we find that there was received in the Company's treasury in December 1765 *vizary* rupees 2,88,052-0-0, which sum was paid by Mr. Stuart to Mr. Middleton, then Chief of Patna, and by him remitted down in specie to the President and Council here, who credited Benaras factory for it. We have therefore directed the Military Paymaster General to receive from Mr. Stuart the ballance of his account current, and to debit the General Books for the amount which appears from them to have been sent from Patna with a *batta* of 8 per cent as it was paid to Mr. Stuart at that rate, and to credit Benaras factory for the *vizary* rupees at 8 per cent.

73. In obedience to your orders the books of the Storekeeper of the Works Office shall be transmitted to you regularly in future, and we have directed them to be commenced from the year 1765, the time pointed out by the Committee of Inspection in order that you may receive them compleat.

74. As the state of your treasury has for some time past been very low we have paid the amount of the commission on the revenues in bonds that we might not distress you by paying it in money.

75. The bonds which were granted for the amount of the fund established by Lord Clive for the benefit of disabled officers and soldiers etc., having been made out in His Lordship's name solely, we judged it more eligible to have them made out in the name of the Governour and Council as trustees for this fund and have accordingly renewed them in this form; and although His Lordship's generous benefaction needs no other ratification from him to confirm it than the declaration in his letter on the occasion, yet we would beg leave to suggest to you gentlemen, whether it might not be proper to have some instrument drawn up according to the forms of law in order to prevent any future litigations by the heirs of Lord Clive in case of any accident to His Lordship, and their being averse to appropriating this fund to the purposes it was intended for by him.

76. Lieutenant Colonel Campbell having been at some expence whilst he was in service at Bombay we indulged him with defray-  
 Consn. 14 Au-  
 gust. ing some extra charges which he had incurred whilst at that settlement.

77. General Smith delivered in an account of his expences during  
 Consn. 14 Nov-  
 ember. the time he had the command of your army, which is recorded in Consultation of the 14 November, and the ballance due to him has been discharged.

*Eighthly Charter*

78. We have appointed Mr. John Levett to the office of Mayor for the present year, and Messrs. Barton, Saunderson and Pawson have been appointed Alderman.

Consn. 26 October.  
 Consn. 12 December.  
 Consn. 4 January.

*Supplement*

79. We should be sorry if the cause of that censure which we informed you in the 25 paragraph of our letter dated the 26th of March 1769 we had passed on Mr. Barwell should have been considered by you in any other light than an inadvertency of conduct in that gentleman, and as his general character and conduct before the circumstance that drew upon him this censure had often merited the praise of his superiors we shall be happy to remove any unfavorable impression it may have made; the error we condemned he has satisfactorily attoned for by the ample apology he made to his chief and we hope it will no longer be remembered to his prejudice. His conduct during the time he held the station of Resident of Bauleah has been commended in a particular manner by our late President Mr. Verelst in his minute of the 19th of June 1769, who had a particular opportunity of being acquainted with Mr. Barwell's merit in that station. We therefore hope and make no doubt but that you gentlemen will as we have done overlook an unintentional error which he has acknowledged and attoned for.

80. Lieutenant Colonel Morgan, who has been appointed to the Second Brigade, has requested us not to subject him to the mortification of serving under officers he lately commanded untill they shall be promoted to superior rank, but to permit him to act by the commission he holds. We acquainted you in our letters from the last year that we had fixed this gentleman your youngest Lieutenant Colonel, but as we deem it no way inconsistent with your restrictive orders, we have thought proper to listen to the request he has made to us, and to comply as far as his pretensions appear reasonable and consonant to the spirit of your commands. We are the more influenced to this from a consideration which we doubt not you will admit in its full force: the duty of a Lieutenant Colonel, whether the oldest or youngest on the establishment, whilst he is under command, requires equal ability in all to discharge it. Lieutenant Colonel James Morgan is in consequence directed to do duty in his brigade conformably to the rank which his commission conferred on him before the receipt of your orders give him, but not to rise to a higher station than that of Lieutenant Colonel untill it may be your pleasure to advance him.

81. We have made Mr. Charles Grant acquainted with your displeasure at his having been concerned in clandestinely shipping on board the *Admiral Watson* three boxes of jewellery. This gentleman seems fully sensible of the impropriety of his conduct, and highly so of the indulgence you have shewn him on this occasion; and at the time that he took the opportunity of expressing his sense of your lenity towards him, he gave us a full explanation of the whole tran-

Consn. 14 November.

saction, wherein he entirely exculpates Mr. John Douglas from any share of blame.

82. In our letter of the 25 of September 1769, paragraph 103, we acquainted you that the President had replied to a letter of Mr. Williamson's which went a number in the packet by the *Shrewsbury*. This drew a second letter from Mr. Williamson in reply to the President's minute; but as it contained no arguments to induce us to change our resolution regarding that gentleman we have again demanded payment of the ballance that appears to be due from him which if he refuses to comply with we shall prosecute him for the amount.

Consn. 20 December.

83. Although you have been silent in your last advices with regard to the measures we took of sending home Mr. Bolts, yet from the positive orders contained in the 80th paragraph of your letter dated the 11th of November 1768 that we should oblige him to repair to Europe by the first opportunity, and the just idea you entertain of the dangerous and intriguing spirit of Mr. Bolts, we cannot admit a doubt but that it will meet with your entire approbation.

84. In consequence of your orders that we should give effectual assistance to his attornies in recovering his outstanding concerns they have applied to us and delivered in a list of many but not the whole of them. But what is remarkable on this occasion, and worthy [of] your attention, is that the principal part of these concerns are contracts for salt and some other articles which you have expressly forbid your servants to trade in, and it is evident that these contracts must have been made either after the publication of your orders prohibiting the trade or during the existence of the Society of Trade. If the former he was guilty of a manifest breach of your orders; if the latter he was guilty of violating an engagement he had entered into with that Society; so that in either case we do not conceive it is your meaning he should be assisted by us in recovering these unlawfull concerns, and we have therefore positively refused to interfere in them. But in those instances where Mr. Bolts has carried on a fair trade and has outstanding ballances in consequence, the spirit of your orders shall be strictly obeyed.

85. It is needless for us to animadvert on the little regard Mr. Bolts pays either to the commands of his superiors or to publick faith, and the circumstances we have here pointed out regarding his concerns in trade clearly evince that to promote his own interest he would disobey the one and violate the other, and indeed this seems to be your sense from the repeated and positive instructions you have given us to send this gentleman to Europe.

86. In consequence of your orders for sending lists of seafaring people and all other Europeans under our jurisdiction, we issued publick notice that every inhabitant should register his name under penalty of forfeiting your protection if he did not comply with this regulation. But our orders have been ineffectual, nor have we been able to collect the names of more than eight or ten persons exclusive of those who have free merchants' indentures. We may issue orders and we may repeat these orders; but unless we have a power to enforce them they will not avail, and in this point our authority is deficient. For until it is clearly determined whether we have a power of

sending home persons who pay no regard to our orders and regulations, all orders and regulations will be vain.

87. As the gentlemen at Bombay have not acquainted us with any measures they have taken in consequence of your orders for opening a new branch of commerce with the island of Balambangan, nor have informed us of their having received such orders, we are entirely ignorant what steps they have taken in this matter. No country ship hath sailed from hence to that part, or your orders on this subject should have been obeyed.

88. Edward Winship, whom you have directed us to enquire after is dead, as will appear by a copy of the Brigade Major's certificate which goes a number in the packet.

89. Mr. Verelst<sup>9</sup> having received four bulsis of diamonds after the register by the *Lioness* was closed and whilst he was down the river wrote to our Secretary to desire he would inform us of his having carried those diamonds hence with him and that we would mention it to you in our next letter; and we now beg leave to inform you of the same and to send the register of these bulsis a number in the packet.

90. We have the pleasure to send you in this packet, lists of your covenanted and military servants, surgeons, cadets and free merchants, and the long rolls of the three brigades which comprehend all the European soldiers in your army.

91. We have made all the enquiry in our power regarding Michael Law, but have not been able to discover that any such person is resident under our Presidency.

92. As we have a sufficient quantity of goods in the warehouse to admit of our sending home surplus tonnage on one of your ships, we deem it more eligible to lade on board the ship that sails now than one of them that will be dispatched later in the season, on which account, and lest we should, by any accident, be deprived of either the *Duke of Kingston* or *Prince of Wales*, we have laden on board this ship the *Duke of Grafton* about 60 tons of surplus tonnage agreeably to the seperate bill of lading of the same.

93. We have granted a sett of certificates in the name of the legal representatives in England of Mr. Joseph Harris, deceased, in conformity to your orders and have the honour to enclose them in this packet.

General Letter  
from England, 17  
March 1769, para.  
80.

94. We have the pleasure to send you by this ship a chart of the eastern parts of India according to the latest surveys, and as it requires much time and pains to make out these charts we request you will get some copies engraved and send them out to us. Those you favoured us with last year are very inaccurate.

95. We also send you samples of coin taken out of the mint agreeably to your orders in the 62 paragraph of your letter of the 11th November 1768.

96. Major Alexander MacKenzie hath requested leave to resign your service in order to return to England for the recovery of his health as the physicians who have attended him give it as their opinion that there is no probability of his getting the better of his disorder in this climate. We have complied with his request and he takes his passage on board this ship.



97. The late Danish Chief Mr. Cazenove having applied to us for a passage to Europe on board the *Duke of Grafton* we have complied with his request.

98. When the time for the payment of the first moiety of the Navy Donation was nearly expired the agents applied to us to discharge it.

99. Your orders on this subject are so explicit and peremptory that had your treasury been in a flourishing state we should have had no excuse for deviating from them. But we have ventured in consideration of the present situation of your affairs to depart from the literal performance of them and to adopt an expedient which we hope you will approve, as we flatter ourselves that the reasons we shall assign to you for the deviation will fully jusi[sic]sfy the measure.

100. At the time this application was made there were only ten lacks of rupees in your treasury. We could not reflect on so large a sum being drawn from it in so low a state and thrown into the hands of the French<sup>10</sup> without sensible regret, and we could not but think it would be rendering you a very essential piece of service to reserve this considerable sum for our own exigencies. The immediate payment of 7 lacks and an half of rupees at a time when there were only ten in your treasury, and those immediately wanted for advances to the *aurungs*, at a time too when we were devising every means to procure money for the establishment of the fund we have informed you we thought necessary to lay up in case of emergency, were strong objections to discharging the Donation from your treasury. The advantages which will result to the French from this supply in assisting them to procure an investment for their homeward bound ships, and the distress it may involve them in to be deprived of it as we are assured they are in great want of money, were arguments equally strong for withholding it from them. Added to these, there are reasons still more cogent to be urged in favor of the measure we have adopted.

101. The President hath laid before us an account he hath received from The Resident at the Durbar of the sums that ought to be further received during the course of this year, as likewise the amount of what will be due to His Majesty the Nabob for stipends and allowances, which we have the honour to enclose a number in the packet. From these receipts are to be deducted a considerable sum for what may reasonably be expected to be deficient in them owing to the unfavourableness of the season, supplies to Dacca and Cossimbuzar factories for their investments, to the troops stationed at Burrampore and Mongheer, and many other charges which cannot be avoided. The revenues of Bahar will barely defray the expences of the Patna factory, the payment of the troops at Bankipore and Dinapore, and afford supplies for the investment there. The charges of the Presidency and the advances to the *aurungs* will absorb the greatest part of the revenues of the Company's own lands, etc., so that in the month of April next we shall have a very inconsiderable sum both in our treasury at the Presidency and Moorshedabad.

102. Hence, gentlemen, you will observe that notwithstanding all our endeavours, our receipts even in time of tranquility will hardly keep pace with our disbursements; and as appearances daily confirm us more and more of the necessity of a fund for emergencies, we flatter ourselves that you will

join with us in opinion that not only policy requires but prudence will warrant the application of this considerable sum to our own necessities rather than those of the French.

103. At the same time that duty prompted us to take this resolution, equity and regard due to your honour which we consider to be engaged for the payment of this money, required we should also take every precaution in our power to prevent the gentlemen to whom it is due from sustaining any loss; and for this purpose we have granted an interest note to the agents for the amount of the first moiety of the Donation in the same manner as if that sum had been paid into your treasury for which bills are to be granted in November next according to the terms we have before advised you of, and we have also engaged to indemnify them if the French recover the amount of the penalty annexed for the non-payment of the bills.

104. We beg leave to assure you that to the utmost of our power we shall concur with the gentlemen you have been pleased to appoint your delegates at Bengall, and adopt every plan they may propose calculated either to secure your present interests or to procure to you further advantages. But the respect we have for their characters and abilities cannot suppress our feelings, and we must acknowledge we are greatly concerned at the implied reflection we conceive your appointment of Commissioners carries with it. Whatever measures you deem necessary to pursue for the better regulation of your affairs it is our duty to *submit*; if we have been wanting in zeal, attention and prudence we are justly accountable to your tribunal; or if we have evaded obedience to your orders with design, and not merely deferred it through necessity, the consequences are deservedly on our heads; if we have with our eyes open precipitated you into wars which might have been avoided, and officiously intermeddled where you could have no interest to serve, or deviated from the rules of sound policy for the gratification of private views and at the hazard of the publick good, we cannot in such case expect any indulgence or repine at any mortification. But, on the contrary, if our actions have been the dictates of what we thought to be your interest and events have proved them moderate, not inflammatory, tempered by reason, not blinded by ambition or excited by rapacity, we flatter ourselves we shall appear more deserving of your confidence.

105. We have laden on board this ship sundry goods and merchandize to the amount of current rupees 11,71,600-0-0 agreeably to the invoices and first bills of lading enclosed.

106. The ballance in your treasury this day amounts to current rupees 14,91,432-11-6, and of your cash to CR 29,953-12-3.

We have the honour to be

Honorable Sir & Sirs,

Your faithful and most obedient  
servants,

John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
Floyer / Francis Hare / Joseph Jekyll /  
Richard Barwell.

Fort William,  
the 25th January 1770.  
Original per *Duke of Grafton*  
Duplicate per *Anson*

*Postscript*

We have granted 21 setts of bills of exchange by this ship payable at ninety days sight and 2 shillings the current rupee amounting to current rupees 80,385-15-3 for £ sterling 8,038-11-10. The particulars are as follows:

<i>Sett</i>	<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>CR</i>			<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ Stg.</i>		
1	To John Bathoe	2,500	0	0	To Fitzowen Jones	250	0	0
1	To Charles Hawkins	2,000	0	0	To Fitz Willm. Barrington	200	0	0
1	To Charles Weston				To Rd. Smith & Robt. Orme	450	0	0
	acct. of Wm Hosea	4,500	0	0				
1	To John Scot	1,000	0	0	To Clotworthy Gowan	100	0	0
1	To Mrs. Sarah Mapletoft, acct. of Mary Badley	1,277	4	9	To Mrs. Badley	127	14	7
1	To John Scott	300	0	0	To himself	30	0	0
1	To Harry Grant	5,000	0	0	To John Fullarton	500	0	0
1	To Harry Grant	28,910	0	0	To John Henry Mertlins	2,891	0	0
1	To Harry Grant	3,000	0	0	To Mary Rowland	300	0	0
1	To Harry Grant	1,500	0	0	To Thomas Henchman	150	0	0
1	To Harry Grant	1,000	0	0	To Turner Carnac	100	0	0
1	To Robert Hunter Senr.	1,000	0	0	To George Browne	100	0	0
1	To Jno Zach. Kiernander	5,000	0	0	To John Tate	500	0	0
1	To Ensign John Hay	1,000	0	0	To Mrs Christiana Hay	100	0	0
1	To Jno Zach. Kiernander	10,000	0	0	To Thomas Hewit	1,000	0	0
1	To Major Lillyman	3,000	0	0	To himself	300	0	0
1	To Francis Hare	6,238	10	6	To Wm. Round Esqr.	623	17	3
1	To Edward Baber, acct. of Capt. Charles Ironside	500	0	0	To Mrs. Anna Ironside	50	0	0
1	To Alexd. Higginson on acct. of Francis Balader Thomas	1,080	0	0	To Charles Pugh	108	0	0
1	To Patrick Clugh	1,080	0	0	To Robert Blane	108	0	0
1	To Capt. Robt. Blane	500	0	0	To Mrs. Anne Miller	50	0	0
		<hr/> 80,385 15 3 <hr/>			<hr/> 8,038 11 10 <hr/>			

We have also granted 5 setts of certificates, 3 setts to the attornies of Lord Clive to the amount of current rupees 1,85,296-11-3 on account of His Lordships *Jaghire*, one to the attorney of Captain Andrew Ross, Commander of the ship

*Ankerwyke* amounting to current rupees 22,830-0-0, and one to the representatives of the late Joseph Harris amounting to current rupees 9,420-12-9.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
servants,

John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
Floyer / Francis Hare / Joseph Jekyll /  
Richard Barwell.

Fort William,  
the 6th February 1770.

## 3

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1770

*Fear of revenue collection being affected by famine—reconciliation between Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam—Company to attempt reconciliation between Munir-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam—Mir Kasim's movements and activities causing anxiety—the grand magazine at Allahabad removed to Patna as a safety measure—Spanish ships trading with China in violation of agreements.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since the departure of the *Ankerwyke* and *Hampshire* we have had the honor to address you per *Lioness* on which our late President Mr. Verelst proceeded to Europe.

2. Our apprehensions for the safety of the *Duke of Kingston* and *Prince of Wales* had risen to the greatest height when they were happily removed by a letter from the Secret Department at Fort St. George. These advices inform us that the *Prince of Wales* arrived at Bombay on the 21st November, that the *Duke of Kingston* had been left Rio Jeneiro to undergo a repair, and that the recruits on board her being transfered to the *Prince of Wales* they were from that ship landed at Bombay and detained by the President and Council for the reinforcement of their garrison which was almost in a defenceless state. In consequence of this detention the gentlemen at Fort St. George made us an offer of sending to our establishment a part of the troops they had previously destined for Bombay. The reduced condition of our 1st Regiment and the further deminution of our force which the usual mortality of the climate will occasion before we can receive our next supplies from Europe induces us to accept their offer, and we have accordingly requested they would dispatch two hundred men to us by the first conveyance to be made good to them out of the recruits of next season, and that they would appropriate the



remainder of their supernumerary force to the augmentation of the Bombay garrison.

3. The droughts which have so long prevailed, we are concerned to acquaint you, still continue; no part of either province has been exempt from the calamity; but Bahar has more particularly and severely felt its influence. Whatever the experience of Mr. Rumbold and Shitabroy, the advice of Mahomed Reza Cawn and our own judgment could suggest has been maturely weighed and every precaution taken for the support of the collections and the alleviation of the evil. Notwithstanding these our endeavours the daily accounts from Bahar represent such scenes of misery and wretchedness, such general poverty and dispondency that we cannot expect to see a revenue equal to former years. Abatements must in some measure keep pace with the necessities of the country. It shall be our care it be not wantonly allowed or ineffectually applied.

4. In Bengall we have not yet found any failure in the revenue or stated payments. But we must not flatter ourselves in a country where the laborer depends merely on the coming in of his harvest, not on any established or accumulated property that he can always pay the full demands of Government; neither can we with any regard to justice or consequences insist on it. We shall think ourselves happy if by relaxing the rigor of the demands for a time we give encouragement and leave room for the industry of the poor to exert itself in retrieving the calamities of one year during the course of more succes[s]full seasons. When the Supravisors of the districts have made any progress in the proposed enquiries the acts of ministerial dependants will, we hope, be foiled or over ruled; our information will become more direct; and it will be in our power, though it never can be more our inclination, to enforce the superintending authority with better effect and more extensive utility.

5. At the time of our last advices the King's preparations seemed to be in a manner suspended by the Vizier's refusal of so many repeated and urgent invitations to repair to Allahabad. You are not unacquainted with the deep-rooted jealousy which the Vizier entertained of the superior weight acquired over His Majesty by Munerah-ul-Dowlah and which may be more properly said to have been stifled than extinguished by the intercessions of the deputation; lately the Vizier entirely changed his tone and from the time of the old minister's retirement has shewn an extraordinary earnestness to reinstate him about the King and even represented to His Majesty in plain terms that he would never obey the Royal summons [sic] till the restoration should be agreed to as a preliminary. Probably His Excellency meant no more by these declarations than to sound the King, and to amuse us and to secure his own supremacy; the event has proved his behaviour to have been altogether dissimulation; finding the King inexorable as he could wish him, he repaired to the presence, embraced the lucky moment, and was invested with every honor and authority, both nominal and real. This unexpected reconciliation will receive additional strength from the marriage shortly to be celebrated between one of the royal princes and His Excellency's daughters, he having actually left Allahabad on the 15th in order to prepare for the nuptials and given over the charge of the king's affairs in the mean time to Rajah Letchmenaun, an old and confidential servant of his family. It is true he has not yet discovered

to us any visible alteration of sentiments regarding Munerah-ul-Dowlah, but from the dependent situation into which the King is now thrown and the opposition which Munerah-ul-Dowlah has always made to this very expedition to which His Majesty seems ready to sacrifice everything, it is no improbable conjecture that the late interview and compact at Allahabad would never have taken place had not Munerah-ul-Dowlah been the sacrifice.

6. He is now residing under your protection in Calcutta, and in regard to his faithful services to the Company and those which may be hereafter expected from him, we could not help recommending him as a proper object of Royal favour, and we shall continue to do it with all imaginable delicacy as well to the King as to the Vizier.

7. Our attention is at present engaged in watching the motions and designs of Cossim Ally Cawn, who has at length emerged from long obscurity and become once more an actor on the political stage of Hindostan. His councils were so secretly taken and his resolutions so rapidly formed that he had made some marches from the place of his retirement before the rumour of any machinations could spread. Various and contradictory accounts are received of the nature of his views and the foundation of his hopes. The general account is that the Ranah of Gohud has invited him to reside at Gualier as a place more conveniently situated for his schemes and preparations than the territories of the Rohilla's. He had reached about twenty *cosses* beyond Akburabad by the latest intelligence; a Marrattah army is hovering between the country of the Jauts and Rajepoots; a large body of Sick is in the neighbourhood of Panepiat; Nijib-ul-Dowlah<sup>1</sup> is in the field, and the divisions of the Jauts grow daily more inveterate and difficult to cure. It is not unlikely but those several armies have all been drawn together by the spirit of plunder, and are not yet regulated by any settled plan of operation.

8. Sumroo, the old adherent of Cossim Aly Cawn, and Gazy-ul-Dein Cawn,<sup>2</sup> that great master of intrigue, are very zealous in their overtures of assistance, and the Vizier has informed Captain Harper<sup>3</sup> that two Europeans from the Decan, supposed to be from Pondicherry, have joined them and had an interview with Cossim.

9. You will perceive from this detail that whatever designs may have been engendered in his pregnant genius, whatever underhand encouragement he may have received and from whom are hitherto matters of total uncertainty to us. We do not however conceive he would be rash and inconsiderate enough to venture himself from a safe though not shining situation into the hands of strangers without some pledge of friendship and something beyond the emptiness of mere profession. At all events we beg leave to assure you most faithfully that though we would neglect nothing for the security of your important possessions we will on no account engage you in any expence or expose you to any alarms for the sake of imaginary danger.

10. One circumstance the President has remarked to us on the occasion of these advices which merits notice. It is that neither the King or Vizier in any of their late letters expressed a syllable of Cossim-Aly-Cawn though till now they have been remarkably communicative.

11. There being only one battalion in the fort at Allahabad to protect the grand magazine, we have issued orders for its immediate removal to Patna,

as the safety of it is of too much importance to justify its being left in that exposed situation, or in any but the securest place, particularly at a time when the changes in the King's affairs are so recent. We are unable to judge of the consequences attending them.

12. A seat in the Committee becoming vacant by the resignation of Mr. Verelst it is now filled by Mr Floyer, from whose zeal and abilities in the discharge of the double duties of occasional Member and Secretary the Committee have received great satisfaction.

13. We have the honor to transmitt by this conveyance the complete sett of our proceedings and of letters sent and received together with the complete set of the President's country correspondence and that of the Durbar Department.

Fort William,  
4th February 1770.  
(Per *Duke of Grafton*  
Duplicate per [?])

We are,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

*Postscript*

1. Since writing the above we learn from China that two large Spanish ships, one of 70 guns, directly from Europe by the Cape of Good Hope, were at Manilla and destined to carry home by the same passage China cargoes transported thither on small vessells employed for that purpose.

2. The above proceeding being a direct infraction of the Treaty of Munster between Spain and the States, and of the Treaty of Madrid between Great Britain and Spain, where it is stipulated that all and every article relating to the East Indies which the Spaniards granted to the Dutch by the first mentioned treaty, should be extended and granted to the Crown of Great Britain by that of Madrid, we think it our duty to give you notice of the circumstance that you may take measures as to you shall seem advisable.

4

PUBLIC LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1770

*General information regarding shipping etc.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We did ourselves the honour to write to you last by the *Duke of Grafton* under date the 25th ultimo, duplicate of which we now beg leave to enclose.

2. In the 3rd paragraph of that letter we informed you that we had appointed the *Anson* to touch upon the Coast for 100 tons of bale goods which the gentlemen at Madrass expected to have ready the end of this month. She now proceeds accordingly to that Presidency.

3. And as neither the *Duke of Kingston* or *Prince of Wales* are yet arrived, and lest any accident should deprive us of another opportunity of sending advices to you this season, we have transmitted by this ship duplicates of those sent by the *Grafton*.

4. We have laden on board this ship the *Anson* sundry goods and merchandize to the amount of 7,77,500-0-0 rupees agreeably to the invoice and first bill of lading which we have enclosed in our letter to the President and Council of Fort St. George to be by them forwarded to you.

5. We have the pleasure to send you by this ship the General Books of this Presidency with their subsidiary's ballanced to the 30th of April last, together with the books of the several subordinate factories ballanced to the same period.

6. We have licensed by this ship sundry bulses of diamonds the particulars of which will appear by the register that makes a number in the packet.

7. The ballance of this day in your treasury amounts to current rupees 23,04,095-10-0 and of your cash to current rupees [...].

We have the honour to be with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithfull and most obedient  
servants,

Fort William,  
the 13th February 1770.  
(Per *Anson*)

John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
Floyer / Francis Hare / Joseph Jekyll /  
Richard Barwell.

### *Postscript*

The sum of fifty thousand current rupees having been paid into our treasury after the dispatches of the *Duke of Grafton* were closed on account of Captain Samson and his officers for certificates, we accordingly granted a sett for that amount.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most  
obedient servants,

Fort William,  
the 14th February 1770.

John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
Floyer / Francis Hare / Joseph Jekyll /  
Richard Barwell.



## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1770

*Tension created by Mir Kasim's intrigues—secret negotiations between Mir Kasim and Shah Alam, and the equivocal behaviour of Shujaud-Daulah—a general appraisal of the political situation: the Court assured that no troops would be sent beyond the Karamnasa without “real and demonstrative necessity”.*

[ ] O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Though a few days only are elapsed since the departure of the *Grafton* the universal agitation into which Hindostan has been thrown by the machinations of Cossim Aly Cawn makes it an essential part of our duty to keep up the most regular information of every change.

2. Though novelty of these commotions will not allow us to write with certainty or precision but the importance of them equally forbids us to be silent.

3. Since the Vizier's return to Allahabad, and even from the day of his investiture in the supreme power of the King's house, His Majesty has in a manner dropt the confidential and punctual intercourse of which he usually maintained and in its room adopted a style of mere form or studied reserve; neither has the Vizier kept up to his original warmth but for a long interval suspended any mention of Cossim or his designs. Our conception of an alienation in His Majesty has been followed by an almost absolute confirmation of it—repeated and well grounded advices have been received by the President of a clandestine connection between His Majesty and Cossim. After this we cannot be surprized at the change of behaviour in His Majesty, but we confess ourselves not a little surprized at the Vizier affecting ignorance of it. With power so unlimited and crowds of his dependants about the person of the King and in every office or department of the Court, we cannot suppose him really but affectedly ignorant.

4. In the latter case we think it incumbent on us to watch him with the utmost care and attention. However, you may be assured that if we are so unfortunate as to receive conviction of evil designs in the Vizier we will consult the defence of your possessions with firmness, not officiousness, with the true moderation of self security, not the chimerical spirit of ambition. We are unanimously convinced that to cultivate peace is your real interest and every deviation from that plan a wound to your permanency. Our wish and meaning, and our sence of that duty we owe to you, is that we should go far enough to strike the power of Hindostan with an idea of our resolution to defend what is our own, but at the same time on no account to court disturbances for the sake of new country or military glory. It is on this we have formed a plan of defence on the present occasion, well knowing that in

Hindostan the greatest confideracies have been broken and the most extensive measures disconcerted by shewing a determined face at the beginning, and that the appearance of indolence, inactivity or lukewarm council never fail raising the courage, increasing the numbers and encouraging the hopes of the Hindostan potentates. The Marattahs, or Siks, or Cossim Aly Cawn, in conjunction, do not appear formidable to us, and accordingly they engage the least of our attentions. Joined by Sujah Dowlah or adorned with the name of Royalty they are serious objects of our concern. What confidence we ought to place in the Vizier a little time must discover as the season for action is far advanced. We are determined for the present that should the Marrattahs or Siks cross the Jumna or attempt a passage into these provinces along the southern banks of it the 3rd Brigade shall immediately march and take post on the Carumnassah and be joined by the first without delay: perhaps this movement may have the desired effect without further preparations; at all events we most solemnly assure you that without real and demonstrative necessity we will not send a man beyond the Carumnassah—a measure which we have at all times the strongest reason to decline, but now especially, when rumours of a blow intended by our natural enemies the French are so prevalent. These crafty people have, we are persuaded, some hostile designs on our possessions in India, but in what part they will first throw off the mask is yet a matter of speculation. As Bengall is the most considerable of all your possessions so it may not improbably be their first object. Our deliberations are in consequence of this opinion taken up in concerting every possible means for rendering their schemes of whatever nature they are, abortive, and we beg leave to assure you that whatever diligence, activity and circumspection can affect shall be put in execution for the disappointment of their enterprizes.

Fort William,  
the 18th February 1770.  
(Per *Anson*  
Duplicate per *Princess Louisa*)

We are with the utmost respect,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

## 6

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 18 MARCH 1770

*Mir Kasim's finances in a bad state, and his power less formidable than was supposed—the dismissal of Najaf Khan, Faujdar of Kora and Allahabad, by Shah Alam and the Company's desire to help him—the grand alliance against the British in a state of dissolution—the death of Saifud-Daulah and the succession of Mubarakud-Daulah.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Gentlemen,

1. The opportunities which we expected of continuing our advices of this

season by the *Prince of Wales* and *Duke of Kingston* being precluded by the delay in their arrival, we have no resource in our power but to avail ourselves of the Danish ship now under dispatch and of the possibility of this letter reaching Madrass by land before the *Anson* sails.

2. Our apprehensions that the tranquility of Bengall would be disturbed which we communicated to you in our letter of the fourth of February by the *Grafton* and the plan of defence which we formed in consequence of those apprehensions acquiring strength as expressed in our letter by the *Anson* of the 18th of the same month must necessarily have created in you some uneasiness for the event and an anxiety for further information.

3. We have now the satisfaction to assure you that the dangers which occurred to us on the commencement of Cossim's preparations have partly disappeared on a more thorough knowledge of the state of his finances, the degree of his influence, and the disposition of those to whom he applied and on whom he depended.

4. For us to trace the proceedings of this adventurer in a regular progression would be only to tire you without affording a single material for useful reflection.

5. Suffice it to say that he has been soliciting the Marrattahs and Siks jointly and seperately, that he has made a momentary parade with his levies and vakeels and boasted of alliances formed and to be formed ; but as it was expected he should make immediate contributions, and the lowness of his circumstances renderd that impossible ; his friends have been gradually cooling in his interest, and his name and projects begin to be treated with indifference.

6. Already the little army which he has assembled is by degrees falling off and the produce of his jewells (for treasure he has none) is barely sufficient to keep the whole from dispersing though in a state of inaction and it is probable they will never be persuaded to take the field with him. Whether Cossim Aly Cawn was master of treasures has been a question much agitated and never solved till now. And his wealth being the consideration that made him formidable in our eyes we have some reason to rejoice at this discovery of his real condition.

7. Amongst his other subjects of exultation he produced letters, which he affirmed were addressed to him by the Governor of Chandernagore and contained intelligence that the secret orders of the French Court to its agents abroad were to commence hostilities on the first favourable opportunity against the English, in which undertaking he was invited to act a part himself. Perhaps these letters may have been the offspring of his own invention to gain partizans and give an air of consequence to himself, yet it is not altogether unlikely such a corespondance may be really maintained between him and the French settlements.

8. The Marrattahs for these three weeks or more have remained on the confines of the Rajeputs, infesting their territories with incurtions on pretence of the non-payment of the sums which they have exacted of that Government. After a series of messages and proposals between the Jauts under Newal Sing







Najaf Khan

and the Siks, the two armies have come to blowes, and the Siks by the latest advices have been worsted. However, this affair has by no means determined which of the contending parties has the superiority of the other. We can only observe on the occasion that the quarrels of the Hindostan powers amongst themselves concur almost equally with the terror of our arms to maintain your possessions in repose, and we shall ever make it a rule of our conduct to be in such cases mere spectators.

9. Our difficulties with the King are more serious and the behavior of the Vizier who is the underhand promoter and adviser of all His Majesties actions and towards us affects to know nothing, contributes to increase the delicacy of our situation. The King is at present without a friend to consult, surrounded by the Vizier's dependants, and is so intoxicated with the glittering prospects their artifices hold up to his deluded senses that he grants every thing regardless of his dignity, his honor and his interest. The Vizier persuades him by his agents to some rash and unthinking resolution, and afterwards imputes it to the known weakness of this unfortunate Prince, what is in fact the effect of his overruling influence and the wish of his own heart. His Majesty's correspondence with Cossim is confirmed by every day's intelligence, but he has gone greater lengths in another instance, and has not scrupled by a late publick act<sup>1</sup> to convince us and all Hindostan how much his regard and confidence with respect to the English is diminished.

10. Many reports had prevailed that Nijif Cawn was to be dismissed from Corah, but the Vizier preserving his usual plausibility, it was not generally credited till the very dismissal took place. His refusing to settle his accounts was the pretence, and we believe a mere pretence since in his payments and accounts he has always been regular beyond the general custom, and we are more confirmed in it from the connections of the successor and the terms on which he received his appointment: his name is Sau-ide-Cawn<sup>2</sup>, an officer of cavalry in the King's service, and for what Nijif Cawn paid 20 lacks he is now to pay but fourteen. As a person who distinguished himself in our service and who was thought worthy a stipulation in his favour in the treaty, we could not, in so trying a situation, give him over to the persecution of a faction without shaking the confidence, and consequently the fidelity of all our old friends, and in times of extremity, we might in vain search for new ones. We were not however forgetfull of the violence of the party who opposed him, nor of the impropriety of supporting a subject against his lawfull sovereign. All we could do was to recommend moderation and submission to Nijif Cawn, and at the same time to assure him of our determination to fulfill the stipulations in the treaty regarding him, and that any part of the province under our protection would be open to him for his residence.

11. In the midst of these transactions the Vizier is amusing himself with hunting in a distant part of his dominions as if uninterested in all that has happened; but his pleasures have not occupied him so entirely that he should forget supporting the King's resolution concerning Nijif Cawn, for advices mention that he has even sent a detachment across the Ganges to act against Nijif Cawn, should he make any resistance to His Majesty's orders for repairing to Allahabad. We have still further exerted ourselves in behalf of our friend as far as letters and remonstrances, both to the King and Vizier, have any weight, and we doubt not but you will approve the part we have taken

when it is considered. We could not have done less without bringing a reproach upon our name, nor more without endangering the present harmony.

12. We have the pleasure to inform you that the removal of the magazine from Allahabad is in good forwardness, and we hope it will in a month be safely transported within our own frontiers.

13. Upon the whole it appears to us that the grand confederacy which was in agitation against us is dissolved, and the lateness of the season will not admit of a renewal of it, at least of any fixed measures, nor is the temporizing disposition of the Vizier at all favourable to foreign alliances. In the late scenes, after fluctuating between fear and ambition, at one time reserved as if ripe for hostilities, and at another resuming his wonted confidence, he has left no honourable impression of himself on either side, and we are inclined to think he has rendered himself as much suspected by the native powers as by ourselves. His ambition blinds his judgment, but his timidity at the moment of execution reverses all his schemes and disarms his ambition. Such a compound in his character affords us some degree of security, for was he as brave as enterprizing the contest would not be far off. Tranquility being thus probably secured in Hindostan we shall be able to employ our attention with the greater constancy to the providing against the more formidable schemes and operation of the French nation.

14. The sudden demise of the Nabob Syfe-ul-Dowlah, which happened a few days ago, is an event we deem our duty to communicate by the earliest conveyance. A malignant smallpox which has raged and continues to rage with great violence at Moorsheadabad was the occasion of his death, and the grossness of habit joined to some intemperances gave double force to the disorder and hastened his fate.

15. Mobarek-ul-Dowlah, his younger brother who is about ten years of age, being the next in the line of succession, has by the President and Council been recognized, and orders are transmitted to the resident at the Durbar to assist the Ministers in seating him with the usual formalities on the *musned*, which is a measure, we hope, will prove the most consistent with your interest as well as with the meaning of the tenth paragraph of your General letter of the 16th March 1768<sup>3</sup> and is also a popular election in the eyes of the natives.

Fort William,  
the 18th March 1770.  
(Per the *Princess Louisa*  
Duplicate overland the 9th May)

We are, with the utmost regard,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1770

*Failure of Mir Kasim's plans confirmed—great increase in Maratha power in Hindusthan : victory over the Jat chief Nawal Singh ; Maratha alliance with Najibud-Daulah, and the conference at Mathura ; fear of Hafiz Rahmat Khan and Ghaziud-Din joining the Maratha group—severity of the famine ; troops to be withdrawn from famine areas to help civil population—fear of the French, and measures to prevent secret importation of arms and troops by them.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Gentlemen,

1. We have just received intelligence that our letters of the 18th March which we dispatched overland to Madrass arrived too late for the *Anson's* packet, and though we took the precaution to send a duplicate thereof by Captain Newland a passenger on board the *Princess Louisa*, a Danish ship, yet your orders are so positive for our maintaining a constant correspondence with you both by land and sea that we should not think ourselves justified on our part without performing every thing to insure a regular and connected account of your affairs.

2. How much the ostentatious schemes of Cosim Aly had sunk in the publick estimation we have already described. Subsequent events have still further confirmed our security and more strikingly displayed the imbecillity of all his measures.

3. Rejected by the Marrattahs, deceived by his friends, and discontented in himself, his very patroness the Ranah<sup>1</sup> begins to repent her generosity and to discover, instead of augmenting her own power and security, or the cause of her guest's, she has brought the first into danger, and rendered the latter a subject of contempt. At present this once famous chief seems totally lost in the transactions of Hindostan, and if any judgment can be formed of his future fortune he will never more act in any other character than as the lowest and most subordinate instrument to be employed through necessity and cast off at pleasure.

4. But whilst this object which originally engaged our chief attention is sunk beneath it, another object has risen into importance which we once treated with indifference, or at least beheld with less immediate concern. It is the rapid growth of the Marrattah power in Hindostan of which we speak. Their force had continued so long on the borders of the Rajapoots without aspiring to any grand or concerted enterprize that it was imagined satiated with plunder they would as usual have retreated on the commencement of the heats and repassed the Nubuddahs. Unluckily an opening presented itself which gave them an easy passage into the heart of Hindostan and filled them with no vain hopes of re-establishing the foundations of their ancient influence and grandour in the Empire. The complete victory obtained by Nule Sing,



one of the Jaut competitors, over the Siks, who had marched to the support of the opposite faction, seemed to threaten his rival<sup>2</sup> with the sudden dissolution and extinction of his party. From this distress nothing less than the Marrattah force could extricate him. To their chiefs his applications were directed, and sparing neither concessions nor future promises he soon perfected an alliance. The fort of Kumire, the second for strength in the Jaut territories, was delivered to the Marrattahs, their garrison introduced, and their whole army soon at the gates. Nule Sing, unworthy of that success with which fortune more than his own courage or conduct had blessed him, declined a battle which was repeatedly offered him by the Marrattahs, suffered the ardour of his soldiers to be abated, and left the country a prey to the invaders, who destroyed it by fire and sword, and in that spectacle afforded a mournfull proof to all his partizans of his total incapacity and cowardice. After six weeks of this shameful inactivity a battle was at length ventured and it ended in the most decisive victory on the part of the Marrattahs which has been at any time gained in Hindostan. Nothing remains to complete the triumph of the Marrattahs but the acquisition of Dhygke, the fort into which Nule Sing with the broken and dispirited remains of his army is retired. However their want of discipline and of infantry for such an enterprize has stopped their career, and they have contented themselves with subjecting the districts and proclaiming their ally the lawfull Rajah of the Jauts throughout their conquered jurisdiction.

5. But this was only the path to further aggrandizement. Nijib-ul Dowlah had long considered his situation of guardian to the Royal house at Delhy as a most dangerous and turbulent post which drew upon him the envy of all his neighbours. He was perhaps sensible that alone he could never hope to maintain the pretensions either of the present Royal family or of any new branch that he might think proper to elevate to the throne, or supposing his intentions strictly loyal, ye [the] prudent politician saw that a conjunction with those he was unable to resist was necessary to his own preservation. He was therefore determined not to neglect the prospect of a Marrattah alliance. Such was his eagerness to complete his work that he scrupled not to allow the straggling and disordered army of Sicks an unmolested passage to their own country, though the remembrance of former injuries might alone have justified revenge. It would have interfered with his favourite projects.

6. All parties have lately had an interview at Mehtrah, a town situated on the banks of the Jumna, about 12 coss from Agra. What particular measures have been adopted is yet a mystery and we conceive (whatever they may be) they will be reserved to the next season.

7. Hafez Rehamat shews an inclination to join the confederacy, induced by that respect which every Rohillah entertains for the character of Nijib-ul-Dowlah. From another quarter Ghazy-ul-Dine is hastening to take part in a scene so agreeable to his love of action and intrigue. Ahmed Cawn remains almost singly neuter, and it is reported from attachment to the King, towards whom this league or association portends no good.

8. With respect to your interests it looks as if the hand of providance had guided every transaction with a view to your security. Frustrated in their first design of a confederacy against us our allies had still a resource in the



Marrattahs, but even that resource has failed. The junction of Nijib-ul-Dowlah was the first shock to their hopes, and the participation of Gazy-ul-Dine Cawn has not only effectually disjoined the King and Vizier from them, but totally changed their system of action. The King is threatned with a pretender to his throne, the Nabob Shujah-ul-Dowlah with a competitor for the Vizerate.

9. Whether Nijib-ul-Dowlah will support the character which he has hitherto done of a faithfull adherent to his sovereign and is only yielding to the necessity of the times till he is able to speak his sentiments with freedom we cannot yet determine, but this is certain [that] a revolution is the apparent object of policy to the whole party. Gazy-ul-Dine, who has dethroned two sovereigns, murdered one, and put out the eyes of the other, could expect no other than instant punishment from the re-establishment of the present King. Nijib-Ul-Dowlah could not hope to enjoy the same authority under Shaw Allum as he would under a prince constituted by himself, nor would the territory, the revenues, the army he now possesses be tamely resigned to him by a well settled government. The Marrattahs whose sole aim is universal sway would have to share the honor and the power with the Vizier whereas at present they have the unrivalled possession of both.

10. The conduct of our allies has been suitable to the times, slighting and suspicious on the appearance of hope, submissive and confidential on the surmise of danger. At this time the alarm is so great that they think all the attention and obsequiousness which they can affect insufficient to remove the prejudice which their former behaviour has left on our minds. Even the recall of Munerah-ul-Dowlah and the re-establishment of Nijife Cawn has been privately hinted.

11. It is difficult to say how long they will continue in this complaisant humour since a feather turns the scale, but we may safely conclude [that we] shall see no change whilst these apprehensions remain. It has been our study to encourage every approach to confidence by the most flattering returns, and to check the smallest symptoms of duplicity by maintaining a firmness throughout our corespondence.

12. If the internal prosperity of these provinces coresponded with an external security we should be happy, but it is far otherwise. Not a drop of rain has fallen in most of the districts for six months. The famine which has ensued, the mortality and beggary, exceeds all description. About one third of the inhabitants have perished in the once plentiful province of Purnea and in other parts the misery is equal.

13. The Supravisor of Bahar has represented to our President that the harvest which in that province is gathered in during the months of March and April has yielded but a scanty return, that the price of grain has rose even since the harvest, and that it is absolutely [necessary] to move the brigade from Bankypoor beyond the Carumnassa to save the lives of many poor wretches who might be subsisted from what the brigade consume[s].

14. Though it was the last necessity that induced the Supravisor of Bahar to make this proposal yet your orders against it are so positive, the season so fatal to Europeans on a march, the policy of keeping our forces as near as

po[s]sible to the Presidency so obvious, and the consequences of being involved in the same difficulties with the King from which we are but lately freed and so much to be dreaded, that however advisable it appears in other respects, we could not with propriety adopt that method of relief.

15. We have however consented to remove two battalions of seapoys and the cavalry from the cantonments to the fort of Buxar there to encamp, which will be attended with some alteration to the distresses of Patna, and with no disagreeable consequences to your political interest. On the contrary, since the King and Vizier have resumed an intimate correspondance and intercourse with us, we have thought it no unfavourable occasion to bind them faster to us by interpreting this motion of our troops into a zeal for their honor and support against all aggressors.

16. Nothing material has transpired concerning the French designs since our last advices excepting that in the province of Purneah 700 draught bullocks providing [sic] by the Governor of Chandernagore have been seized by the officers of Government. We communicate this as it gives a stronger confirmation to our suspicions than has hitherto appeared.

17. For the preventing any clandestine practices of drawing troops or any military stores into the country we have recommended to the Government to appoint a vigilant officer with a company of seapoys at Culpy to inspect all ships, to report their force and cargo, and to lay an embargo on all such as contain above a certain number of men and guns.

18. The gentlemen whom you have thought proper to appoint Supravisors of your settlements in India were not arrived at Madrass the 21st April last which is the date of our latest intelligence from thence.

19. By His Majestie's [sic] frigate the *Stag* from Tellicherry we learnt the *Aurora* departed from the Cape on the 23rd December, but no other particulars since that time.

Fort William,  
9th May 1770.  
(Original dispatched overland  
Duplicate ditto 21st June)

We are,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1770

*Continuance of famine: relief measures taken—progress of Maratha arms in the Doab—rift in the camp of the Marathas and their allies—Shah Alam more friendly towards the Company—movements of French armed vessels*

28 JUNE 1770

205

causing anxiety—*postscript*: non-arrival of the Commissioners sent from England.

[ ] O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We had the honor to address you by the *Princess Louisa*, a Danish ship, on the 18th March and on the 9th May we transmitted a duplicate of those dispatches with a general account of transactions done to that period, a copy of which we now enclose.

2. Few alterations have happened during this short interval. The famine of which we have already given you an unexaggerated description has continued to rage with all its fatal consequences and notwithstanding all our efforts to administer relief by public contributions to the poor, remission of the collections and importations from the neighbouring provinces, we have beheld the calamity daily encreasing. Your revenues must suffer from it both now and in future. but no endeavours shall be omitted on our parts to render the evil as light and as temporary as possible.

3. The Marrattahs have pursued their conquests. The whole jurisdiction of the Jauts to the south of the Jumna and between that river and the Ganges have submitted to their arms excepting the forts of Dhyge and Agra; those they can never hope to possess but by voluntary submission or treachery. Cons[c]ious of their inability they have not attempted it by force of arms. This circumstance must always be a check to their progress and may one day lay the foundation of their extirpation. The treasures deposited in those forts, particularly the former, amount to many crores. All that is wanting is a more able and resolute leader than Nule Sing to apply those treasures. We have the pleasure to assure you that in the midst of these successes the Marrattahs have not discovered any hostile designs against these provinces. A new king in opposition to Shah Allum, whom they consider as a prisoner in our hands, has been the theme of Ghazy-ul-Dine Cawn, but Nijibeul Dowlah and even two of the Marrattah Generals absolutely refuse their concurrence in the measure and threaten a separation should it be adopted. The consequence of this difference of opinion has been jealousy, disgust, and intrigue, and though it is difficult to judge of events in a country where the leaders are influenced by caprice more than policy, it does not appear improbable that Nijibeul Dowlah may be ultimately induced by his superior good sense and the apparancy of his interest to quit his present unnatural alliance and set himself at the head of an association against the Marrattahs. For the present operations are at a stand, and the confederate armies, it is said, will shortly enter into cantonments at Cowle [sic] till the conclusion of the rains.

4. Apprehensions from the Marrattahs has brought the King back to his former confidence and this disposition may perhaps have been further improved by certain suspicions which he has lately betrayed of his Vizier. The Vizier's remarkable inactivity on this occasion does indeed countenance such suspicions. Whilst the Marrattahs are extending their ravages almost to his frontiers, he is employed in hunting in a distant part of his frontier.

5. The above transactions not immediately affecting these provinces, we

should not have put you to the expence of an extraordinary dispatch merely on that account, though we think it necessary to give them a place when an opportunity recurs.

6. The following paragraph of a letter from the Select Committee of Fort St. George, dated the 29th ultimo, appears to us worthy your attention and was our principal inducement to send you this dispatch.

“By the *Valentine*, which was at the Cape in March last, we learn that the *Duc de Choisieul* with four transports from France were then there, that two other transports had been at the Cape and were gone on to the Islands, that the whole number of military on board were said to be about 2,000 with a General Officer. It was also confidently reported at the Cape that the French were incorporating a number of coffrees at Madagascar with their Europeans.”

7. As your letters by the *Houghton* mention nothing of this armament and as we do not hear that any of the Coast and Bay homeward bound ships touched at the Cape we have therefore advised you thereof and shall on every occasion attend to your orders for the frequent communication of interesting occurrences.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves with the utmost respect,

Fort William,  
the 28th June 1770.  
(Original overland  
Duplicate per *Lapwing*)

Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

#### *Postscript*

We have been long under some anxiety for the Commissioners who have not been heard of any where since their departure from the Cape.

Advices from Batavia and Bencoolen so late as the beginning of April have been received without any accounts of them. And if the *Aurora* has met with any distress those were the most likely ports for her to repair to for re-fitting or refreshment.

#### 9

### PUBLIC LETTER DATED 25 AUGUST 1770

*Shipping news: escape of Captain Justice from Rangoon; investigation into a complaint against Captain Gardiner of the Lapwing—trade and investment—disputes with the French—succession of Mubarakud-Daulah as Nawab of Bengal and the conclusion of a new treaty with him—death of the Raja of Burdwan—sundry matters relating to service, accounts, etc.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since our last letter to you by the *Anson* dated the 13th of February, a duplicate of which we enclose, we have been honored by your commands of



the 15th of September and 10th of November 1769 per *Houghton*, of the 7th of December per *Europa* and of the 17th and 31st of January 1770 by the *Verelst*, and the *Vansittart* brought duplicates of those dated the 10th of November, 7th of December and 17th of January.

2. We received account of the final dispatch of the *Grafton* on the 17th  
 Consn. [17th] of February and of the *Anson* on the 28th of February.  
 February.  
 Consn. [...] March.

3. We have the pleasure of informing you that the *Prince of Wales* arrived here on the 3rd of April last, and the *Duke of Kingston* on the 22nd of June.

4. The ships of this season arrived in the following order:—

The <i>Houghton</i>	. . . . .	on the 4th June.
The <i>Verelst</i>	. . . . .	on the 3rd July.
The <i>Europa</i>	. . . . .	on the 20th . . .
The <i>Vansittart</i>	. . . . .	on the 10th August.

5. As the Captain of the *Prince of Wales* reported to us that the ship had struck upon the eastern brace and afterwards upon her anchors several times,  
 Consn. [...] April. we issued immediate orders for her being unladen and brought up to Calcutta that her bottom might be examined.

6. By the *Prince of Wales* we received a letter from the gentlemen of Bombay informing us of their having protested against Captain Court for his  
 ditto not making the necessary dispatch as they acquainted him on the 28th of November of their having no further cause to detain him, and he in a letter to them declared that he should not sail until the 5th of December.

7. The *Duke of Kingston* likewise had the misfortune of striking upon the long sand in coming into the river and the Captain judging it necessary to have her bottom examined we accordingly issued orders  
 Consn. 3, July. to the Master attendant for bringing her up to Meyapore, a creek about 14 miles below Calcutta.

8. As Captain Compton had passed Fort St. George although his destination was for the Coast and Bay, we demanded of him his reasons for this conduct, and received an answer declaring that although he  
 Consn. 3, July. saw at night what he believed were ship's lights in Madrass Road, yet the wind was not favorable to him, and the current set so strong to the eastward that by noon the following day he was out of sight of land considerably to the northward of Madrass, and having but 14 days water on board he with the consent of all the officers proceeded to Bengal as they agreed it was impossible to reach Madrass.

9. We however directed an enquiry to be made by a court composed of the Master Attendant, Captains Richard Morrison, Joseph Price, and Cudbert  
 Consn. [...] August. Thornhill, from whose report it does not appear that Captain Compton was guilty of any intentional neglect or disobedience of the orders he had received from you, but that not having made



sufficient allowance for the northerly currents which prevailed on the Coast at that time of the year, he was unable to make the port of Fort St. George.

10. The gentlemen at Fort St. George having desired that we would send them a ship as early as the season would admit of it as they could depend on having 200 tons of goods in readiness for her, and particularly mentioning that unless she could be there in time for her loading and dispatch home thence before the 15th of October they should be obliged instead of sending her home to send her to the eastward, the monsoons upon the Coast not rendering it safe for a vessel to remain in Madrass Road after that period, we agreed on the dispatch of the *Duke of Kingston* from hence to the Coast and directed the Captain to get her ready for sailing by the 15th of August.

Consn. July 13.

11. But as through the decrease of the crew by extreme sickness, Captain Morrison declared his inability of obeying our orders, and as the crew of the *Houghton* had suffered equally with the *Kingston*, we determined on sending the *Vansittart* though just arrived if she could be unladen and got ready in time and if the *Kingston* was not in readiness by the assistance, we afforded the Captain, of Europeans from the marine yard and of lascars.

Consn. August 7.

12. In addition to our relation of the proceedings at Pegu in our letter of the 25th of January, we now inform you that Captain Justice, having been called upon by Dundas for the payment of 80,000 rupees exclusive of the enormous sum he had before demanded, and being fearful of remaining a prisoner on account of this demand, made his escape from Rangoon on board a ship just departing from that port and arrived safe in Calcutta.

Consn. March 13.

13. On his representation of the losses sustained by himself, his officers and men, by their having been obliged to leave all their cloaths and effects at Pegu when they made their escape, and likewise of the officers loss of time and privilege, we agreed to discharge the estimates he delivered amounting to ARs. 14,458-2-6, which sum also includes their pay for nine months.

Consn. April 3d.

14. As Captain Justice had behaved throughout this troublesome and tedious affair so much to our satisfaction and as we appointed him to the station wherein he acted at Pegu entirely on account of the good opinion we entertained of his honesty and abilities, we could not without regret behold him involved in a labyrinth of misfortunes, from whence we feared he would with difficulty escape. We sent by his Chief Mate letters of credit on some Armenian merchants, and liberty to draw on us for the amount of his ransom, as humanity would not suffer us to leave him a slave in the hands of Dundas and the barbarous Peguers. But without putting us to this additional expence he made his escape at the hazard of his life and with the loss of many of his effects, besides a sum of money belonging partly to others and which he had lent to some merchants. We have therefore promised to make good his losses as far as equity would permit us, and should he not regain the money he lent at Pegu, to consider the peculiarity of his case.

15. We hope this resolution will not meet with your disapproval. This

man, who before he was employed by us was in a thriving way, has been, through a loss of time and a loss of money at Pegu, reduced almost to beggary. He has conducted himself in this enterprize with a steady perseverance with prudence and with caution, and only failed of success in his commission by having to do with people whose ruling principle was dishonesty and who publicly gloried in their villainy and fraud.

16. Soon after, the Master Attendant delivered to us a letter he had received from Dundas by a snow from Pegu laden with timber and planks and sent by Dundas to us. But as it did not appear from the letter that it had been by order of the King of Pegu, nor did it mention on what account or for what purpose she was sent to us, and as the affair of the *St. Helena* had occasioned much trouble and expence, we thought it the most prudent part to decline the charge of the snow or her cargo, and desired the Master Attendant to apply to Dundas for information of the authority by which he sent her to us, and to inform him that if she was a present from the King of Pegu, he must send us some credentials from His Majesty.

17. In the meantime we directed the Master Attendant to take proper care of the ship and cargoe as agent for Mr. Dundas.

18. And here the affair rests for the present. For your more particular information the proceedings are sent a number in this packet.

19. Mr. Like, the Second Mate of the *Lapwing* packet, preferred a complaint to the Board against Captain Gardiner, who, he declared, had dismissed him from his station merely through his caprice. As Captain Gardiner's defence before us contained only declarations without proofs, and their mutual letters were only a series of recriminations and more particularly as the Mate charged the Captain with some very misterious behaviour and alarming expressions during the passage, we appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Floyer, Hare, and Barwell for the examination into Mr. Like's complaint.

20. By their proceedings (a copy of which we now transmit you) Captain Gardiner's conduct appeared so unworthy (to make use of no harsher terms) that we thought our duty required of us his dismissal from the command of the *Lapwing*, and we accordingly dismissed him from that station, and appointed Mr. Owens, his Chief Mate, to succeed to the command.

21. Mr. Like, the Second Mate, we reinstated as the sufferings he had experienced far exceeded any faults he might be charged with.

22. We soon after received a complaint from Captain Gardiner against Mr. Owens, his chief officer, which again obliged us to have recourse to the committee of examination. As from their proceedings it appeared that Captain Gardiner had not supported his charge against Mr. Owens, we continued him in the command, although the latter was not entirely free from blame, as he undoubtedly ought to have applied to us for redress instead of absenting himself from the ship without

permission, however obnoxious his Captain's behaviour might have been towards him.

23. We directed Captain Gardiner to deliver to us an account of the chest of treasure he received from you, and to deliver up to  
 Consn. May 31. Mr. Owens the books and papers belonging to the ship; his  
 Consn. July 13. receipt for some of the most material we enclose a number in this packet.  
 The balance of the treasure was paid to Mr. Owens, who  
 Consn. June 12. will be accountable to you for it.

24. Captain Gardiner having applied to us for a copy of the proceedings regarding him and for the discharge of his monthly expences, we granted the first application, but in answer to the second informed him  
 Consn. July 13. we had no concern with his monthly expences, though we were ready to advance him a reasonable sum, for which he was to be accountable to you. He has not yet made a second application on this head.

25. Messrs. Owen, Like, and Sherwen the Surgeon also applied to us for an advance of part of their gratuity, which they declared you had promised them in lieu of their priviledge of bringing out private trade.  
 ditto. As we had received no account of this transaction from you we declined a compliance, but offered them an advance of 2,000 rupees on their bond payable to our order, a sett of which we now send you a number in the packet.

26. In addition to the 3,000 maunds of saltpetre ordered to be laden on the *Kingston* we directed another 1,000 maunds to be put on board her, as we thought it would give her a more proper ballast considering the season of the year, and should she receive 200 tons of goods at Madrass, would afford about 33 tons of surplus tonnage.  
 Consn. 17 July.

27. As we considered that the early dispatch of the *Prince of Wales* would save you considerable expence of demurrage, we ordered the Captain to get her ready for sailing and fixed on the first day of September  
 ditto. for the time of her dispatch. But as her crew has suffered greatly by sickness, we fear the time of her departure will be sometime later than the appointed day.

28. The Export Warehouse Keeper informing us of a quantity of damaged goods remaining in the warehouse, we gave orders for its  
 Consn. 24 July. being sold by public outcry on the 15th of this month.

29. The quantity of Madeira imported last season being very insufficient for the several proportions allotted to your servants, and there being a great want of that article, we judged it necessary to direct the  
 Consn. 7 August. Import Warehouse Keeper to sell it at public outcry. He has delivered in account of the sales, the amount of which is 41,496-0-0 current rupees.

30. The gentlemen at Madrass having requested information of what supplies they might expect from us for the China investment and how far they might draw on us for that purpose, we in answer  
 Consn. 22d March. informed them of our being unable to supply them with specie and of our being necessitated to confine their draughts upon us to the amount of eight lacks of rupees.

31. This supply though scanty we however had the pleasure to find by their next advices they did not stand in need of, and they promised not to draw upon us unless treasure or merchandize proper for the China market could be procured by that method and that method only, their receipts from the Nabob having enabled them to provide an investment for themselves and make sufficient purchases for China.

Consn. 8 May.

32. From more recent advices we learn that they have hopes of procuring a compleat lading for two ships this season, that they have purchased more than two lacks of pagodes for the China market, and that should other resources fail they could raise another lack of pagodes by drawing bills upon us.

Consn. 5 June.

33. And their last letters acquaint us with their hopes of having a compleat cargo ready by the 20th of January next, and half another by the middle of March, which with the 200 tons they purpose lading on the *Kingston*, if she arrives in time, will make up the two cargoes they expected.

Consn. 13 July.

34. The gentlemen of Bombay have complained greatly of the want of money for their Mocha and China ships and their investments, declaring that though we had granted them leave to draw on us to any amount, and even at an advanced exchange, neither they nor the Surat factory could avail themselves of it even to five lacks of rupees they had empowered Surat to draw for.

Consn. 10 April.

35. They therefore had opened their treasury for bills on the Company and empowered the supra-cargoes of the *Duke of Cumberland* to draw upon us for what money might be offered them.

Consn. 10 April.

36. We have however, since our last advices to you in September, discharged bills drawn on us by the Surat factory to the amount of 4,67,700 rupees.

37. And have sent them bills in their favor amounting to 4,29,605.

38. These sums together with the three lacks we sent them in specie by the *Verelst* amount to 12 lacks of rupees, which though not equal to their demands is superior to what we expected to perform in our distressed situation.

39. As the Maulda investment had apparently decreased in quality since it had been under the direction of *gomastahs*, and as you had been pleased to recommend such a measure, we deemed it for your interest to re-establish the Residency there under the direction of a gentleman of experience in that branch. And Mr. Bathoe having been so strongly recommended by you for his knowledge in the *aurung* business and having discharged the office of Sub-Export Warehouse Keeper to our entire satisfaction, we appointed him to act as Resident at Maulda, having in this appointment a view towards your interest by putting it into such capable hands and towards the reward of merit by the preferment of Mr. Bathoe.

Consn. 1st May.

40. In obedience to your commands we informed Mr. Chamier of his appointment. And in April last he proceeded to Cossimbazar, where the gentlemen of that factory provided him with the proper instructions for the superintendence of the raw silk investment.

Cons. 1st May.

Consn. 5th June.



41. But before he could take charge of that office he was attacked by an illness which in a few days terminated in his death.

42. This unlucky incident obliged us to hasten the departure of Mr. James Wiss, who with the four Genoese arrived here in health and safety, and we immediately sent to the gentlemen of Cossimbazar the orders and instructions you had sent us regarding him desiring them to employ in a manner the most likely to answer the purposes for which you sent him to India.

43. According to your orders we enquired of Mr. Wiss if he had reason to complain of the Captain's behaviour during the passage. In answer he assured us he was perfectly satisfied with it.

44. As far as we can judge of our investments from the present prospects, we are in hopes of returning the seven ships destined for Coast and Bay this season with compleat cargoes, exclusive of the *Prince of Wales* and *Duke of Kingston*, though we apprehend that they will not be so valuable as those of the last year.

45. Notwithstanding the caution we have practised and the principles we have pursued of avoiding any cause of dispute in our transactions with the French or Dutch, we have unavoidably been engaged in some disagreeable altercations with the former, whose endeavours to turn every accidental mistake into a premeditated insult, and whose designs of magnifying matters of little moment into affairs of consequence sufficient for the foundation of disputes between the two Companys in Europe will be sufficiently explained and illustrated by the correspondence which has been mutually carried on and is entered in the proceedings forwarded to you by this ship.

46. Their first complaint arose from a seizure of some boats, said by them to be within their colony, by Mr. Helas, a contractor for *chunam* at Belcootchy and Hurriall<sup>1</sup>, which were afterwards laden by him with *chunam* and dispatched towards Calcutta, but in passing by Chandernagore they were stopped as they still carried their colours; however at our representation of the loss that would be sustained by shifting their loading into other boats they allowed them to proceed to us on our promise of returning them directly and of paying the wages of the *mangies* and *dandies*.

47. We directed the Storekeeper of the Works to make particular enquiry into the grounds of this complaint. From whence it appeared that the boats were laying empty at the *gaut* without a dustic, or a peon to protect them. That in consequence of orders issued to the Attiah Zemindar<sup>2</sup> for procuring boats to bring down the *chunam* for the public works he took these, then in the condition we have mentioned, and delivered them to the contractor's people, nor was any claim made of them untill they were laden. Nay, it appeared that the French banian at Belcootchey had made it a common practice to grant the French flag and protection to the country boats for a small sum of money. But this mistake, which happened through the carelessness of their own servants, and which they honored with



the term of unheard of violence, we rectified by paying the people their wages and for loss of time and returning the boats immediately.

48. We soon after were alarmed by demands from Chandernagore of reparation and exemplary punishment for the pillage of their colony by a detachment of our soldiers, who forcing through one of their barrier gates had marched into the settlement, and having disbanded forced open the houses of the inhabitants and plundered all their effects.

Consn. 9th  
January.

49. We immediately desired General Barker to examine every officer who belonged to the detachment and to take down their declarations in writing, which contained an account far different. ditto. It appeared from thence that the advanced guard of the detachment arrived before daybreak at the skirts of Chandernagore when the guide led them by an open street into the town; while they were pursuing their march in good order and under the care of an officer, Captain Catlyn with the main body came up to one of the barrier gates where being refused admission he halted and immediately recalled the advanced guard. He then marched back a small distance and encamped, and being cautious of affording cause for complaint, he sent sepoy centrys to protect the neighbouring villages.

Consn. 9th  
January.  
Consn. 26  
February.

50. It appeared from all the accounts our most anxious enquiries could afford us that after the party halted the straglers from and ditto. the followers of the camp had committed some irregularities in the settlement and some of the villages near the town, that the commanding officer took every precaution to prevent it and confined some whom he found culpable till they could be tried by a court martial.

51. We immediately ordered a court martial to sit on the offenders and requested of the gentlemen at Chandernagore to send down the proper witnesses for their conviction. But although the court was repeatedly adjourned in expectation of those witnesses whom they promised to send us and although the request was repeated, no person appeared, and they were at length obliged to dismiss the offenders.

Consn. 30  
January.

52. We sent to the gentlemen at Chandernagore the depositions of the officers, which proved the march into their colony was through the fault of the guide and from which mistake—for we could call it by no other name—no evil consequences had ensued; for the disorders appeared to have been committed mostly on the villages adjacent to the colony, and principally by the followers of the camp after the detachment had halted and encamped, and requested they would send us an estimate of the losses sustained by the inhabitants that the amount might be discharged. We informed them of the prohibition we had issued against our detachments marching near their colony in future, and we ended with assuring them that no efforts had been or should be wanting to preserve concord and unanimity between the two colonies.

Consn. 26  
February.

53. To conclude the estimate was paid amounting to 1,395 rupees and every satisfaction was made that our power could furnish us with and the nature of the injury would admit of.

Consn. 14th  
August.

54. When it is considered that their first letters were worded in a manner

which could convey no other idea than that of a town taken by assault, and plundered, sacked, and ravaged by the soldiers, who forgetfull of discipline were intent only on pillage, and disobedient to their officers listened only to the dictates of rapacity, and when it is to be observed that the list given in by the inhabitants of effects and money forcibly taken from them by the detachment must have amounted to a very considerable sum, what excuse

Consn. 14th  
August. can be pleaded for the gentlemen at Chandernagore, when after repeated requests made to them for witnesses to support these allegations and to convict the offenders, whose punishment they had so loudly demanded, not a person appeared, although the court martial repeatedly adjourned from day to day!

55. And what can be supposed when these enormous lists of lost effects sent down by them and authenticated by their sanction dwindled at length to the sum of 1,395 rupees and that most probably a great exaggeration of the real loss.

56. Can it be said in their defence that those outrages, committed as they assert under their own eyes, were by the inhabitants exaggerated, and that they themselves were imposed on by false representations? Were all those people who fled to their authority for protection at once vanished; so compleatly scattered that not one could be found to witness against the offenders?

57. Or must we rather be of opinion that our neighbours wish to snatch at every trifle that they may thereon build a foundation for such outrages as they hope will serve them for a justification of some future attack upon our settlement, that jealous of our superior greatness in this country they use every method to blacken our conduct and strive to persuade the world that we exercise our power in the oppression of their colony and wantonly misuse our authority in insulting their nation?

Consn. 14th  
August. 58. But how is this colouring heightened when it is known that these unworthy calumniating attacks are directed at those under whose countenance and favor their colony is in a state of tranquility, their trade lightened from those oppressive burthens which the arbitrary will of the country powers used to impose at pleasure, and when their settlement in general, as well as individuals, has so often experienced the friendship, humanity, and benevolence of the English in Bengal!

Consn. 20th  
February. 59. The factory at Canton informed us of the great distress they should be in unless we sent them a supply of specie for their investment of the next season.

ditto. 60. We could send them no other reply than a declaration of our inability to supply them with a rupee: as our reasons appear at large in our former letters on this subject, we must beg leave to refer you to them.

Consn. 13 Mar. 61. The Nabob Syful Dowla was after a few days illness carried off by the malignant smallpox on the 10th March last about three o'clock in the afternoon.

62. The Resident at the Durbar immediately informed us of it and we ordered minute guns to be fired and every other ceremony to be solemnized usual on such occasions.





Mubarakud-Daulah



63. As the right of succession had been established by you in the present  
 Consn. 20th line of the family we sent immediate directions for setting  
 February. the late Nabob's brother Mahbaureck ul Dowla on the  
*musnud*. We proclaimed him in Calcutta, and we directed Messrs. Becher and  
 Consn. 23d Aldersey to attend the ceremony at the City, and to assure  
 February. His Excellency of our support and attachment.

64. The allowances received by his brother were according to your orders of the 16 March 1768<sup>3</sup> continued to the new Nabob.

65. We likewise drew out a new treaty to the same purport as that entered into by the late Nabob, and after it was executed we delivered one copy to His Excellency, another was put into the hands of the Ministers, a third is deposited amongst our archives, and the fourth we send you in this packet.

66. The Burdwan Rajah Telucke Chaund being seized with a fever was on the 25th of May carried off by it. He was succeeded by his son, a youth of about 16 years of age. And as the ceremony of *suhaud* or funeral rites were necessary to be performed with a grandeur proportionable  
 Consn. 31st May. to his rank and cast, and the extravagance of the deceased had left no fund equal to the purpose, we ordered that the plate, of which he had great quantity, should be melted down to defray the expence, and that the deficiency should be paid out of the Burdwan treasury to be reimbursed to the Company by a part of each month's allowance to the Rajah untill the whole was discharged.

67. The *siccaes* of the present year were issued on the 27th last June, and  
 Consn. 22d. May. the usual annual publication informing the settlement thereof was made.

68. We are to inform you that the usual oaths having been administ[e]red  
 Consn. 26th Feb. Messrs. Reed and Lane took their seats at the Board as  
 Consn. 13th Mar. members of the Council.

69. Major Alexander Hannay applied to us for ten months pay and *batta*  
 Consn. 26 Feb. which he considered as due to him, it being for the time he was on his passage from England in the *Falmouth* which was wreckt in the Bay, when he lost all his baggage and necessaries to the amount of £1,200.

70. As admitting his request when we had refused others of similar nature would occasion new applications which we could not with propriety refuse, we thought it the most prudent method to decline a compliance, and we signified the same to Major Hannay. We however deem it our duty to lay his application before you and to request your resolution thereon.

71. Captain Anneslie Bailie of the artillery and Captain Ar. Ahmuty of  
 ditto the infantry made applications to us for their restoration to their former rank in the service. Indeed their unexceptionable characters, particularly that of the former gentleman, whose wounds bear a testimony of his services, would have inclined us to  
 Consn. 26 Feby. a favorable answer, had it not been for the confusion which such a step would have created in the rank of the army but just then settled. We were therefore obliged to deny their request, but promised to refer it to your determination.



72. Major Sears, who had been removed from the Coast establishment, likewise applied for redress of what he deemed a grievance, *Consu. 24th Apl. vizt.*, the restoration of Major Ahmuty to his former rank, by which he superceded him. As the same reasons which caused our refusal of Captain Balie's and Ahmuty's request still subsisted, we could not think of granting his demand, but promised to refer the decision of it to you, and we hope to receive your commands thereon.

73. Mr. Russell, differing in opinion from the other members, entered a minute, which being recorded in the Consultations we beg ditto leave to refer you to them for the perusal of it.

74. The Presidency of Fort St. George having called on the Zemindar of the Cicacole *Circar* for payment of considerable arrears received from the Tackaley Rajah a declaration that he *Consn. 22d Mar.* accounted to Colonel Peach for his tribute during the time the Colonel commanded the Bengal detachment in that country, a circumstance they were surprized at as it never before came to their knowledge.

75. The Rajah's declaration with a letter on the same subject from Mr. Andrews, Chief of Vizagapatam, were sent to us by the ditto gentlemen of Fort St. George, which [we] immediately forwarded to Colonel Peach ; his answer contained a particular narration of facts, confirmed by extracts from his correspondence with Mr. *Consn. 22d Mar.* Smith, the former Chief of Vizagapatam, by which it *Consn. 12th Apl.* appeared that what part of the tribute he had received from the Teckally Rajah he had given a receipt for and accounted for the money to Mr. Smith.

76. Indeed this accusation, together with some other attendant ones, were cleared up by the Colonel entirely to our satisfaction and to that of the Fort St. George Presidency.

77. It is with concern we now acquaint you with the death of so good an officer. He had so shattered his constitution by the expedition to the Decan that he was in a constant lingering illness from his return to his death. *Consn. 7th August.*

78. Lieutenant Colonel Champion being the oldest Lieutenant Colonel was appointed to succeed him in the rank of Colonel and ditto to the command of the First Brigade.

79. Mr. Lewis Smith, a Lieutenant on this establishment, had with our leave gone to Madrass on account of his health. But finding himself worse and his surgeons declaring the absolute necessity of his return to England, he applied to us for permission, which we *Consn. 10th Apl.* granted him, and we beg leave to recommend his being allowed to return to Bengal with his rank as soon as his health permits.

80. We have been disappointed in our expectations of the recruits by the *Prince of Wales*, the gentlemen at Bombay, *Consn. 3d April.* being far short of their number and understanding from Madrass that our establishment was almost compleat, landed them for the service of their Presidency. Their number was ninety six,

81. Captain Court having made a demand on them on account of sundries supplied the men on the passage, they referred it to your determination.

82. Mr. Reed having proposed for several reasons contained in his minute the appointment of a member of the Board to the chiefship of Chittagong, it became a subject of debate, and on being put to the vote the majority was of opinion that such a measure would reduce the members of the Board to too small a number for the conducting of the business of the several departments at the Presidency with the requisite propriety and exactness, and that therefore no alteration should be made in the present appointment of a provincial chief.

83. And it appearing to the Board that the Residency at Luckypore was of such consequence as to require the nomination of a Resident from hence and not from Chittagong as had been heretofore the custom, Mr. William Barton was appointed to that Residency.

84. One Ramnarain Misseer a *circar* [*soucar*] having applied for the payment of a debt which he said was due to his father Ramnaut Misseer and only referring to the Company's books, we ordered the Sub-Accomptant to make an examination, who reported to us that Ramnaut Misseer stood creditor on the General Books for current rupees 4,203-8-0, in the year 1750, but that he could not find any explanation regarding this debt. We therefore acquainted Ramnarain Misseer with this circumstance and of our design of referring it to your determination, and desired him to give us every information he could for your guidance, but we have received no other account from him than what we have now mentioned.

85. In obedience to your commands by the *Lapwing* the Sub-Accomptant drew out the forms of two statements to be sent monthly from every factory to the Presidency, one to contain their quick stock, and the other the amount of dead stock<sup>4</sup>, together with such other articles of debts and charges as are not inserted in their statement of quick stock. These forms we dispatched to every subordinate with strict injunctions on them to send statements every month according to that mode.

86. The attornies to the proprietors of the Curree Juree lands represented to us that the resolution of the Board on the 4th of March 1762 to reimburse them the charges they had sustained in receiving back those lands had not been executed, the accounts of charges having by some accident never been delivered in, and therefore requested the payment as by the account of particulars they sent to us.

87. As it did not appear from a search made into the General Books by the Sub-Accomptant that this charge had ever been paid off, we agreed to discharge it, amounting to current rupees 3,487-1-3.

88. Mr. Browne, whom you have been pleased to appoint Sub-Secretary, in order to qualify himself to be Standing Secretary, conceiving it to be your meaning by this appointment that he should succeed to the Secretaryship

upon the first vacancy, wrote to us requesting to know our sentiments on this subject and setting forth the reason that induced him to be of this opinion.

89. Our late Secretary Mr. Baber was at this time nominated to succeed Mr. Vansittart as Resident at Midnapore and consequently was to leave the office very soon. As Mr. Browne was professedly appointed with a view of qualifying himself for the succession and as he had been too short a time in the office to have had an opportunity of effecting this purpose, we thought proper to wave his pretensions, and to appoint Mr. William Wynne to succeed Mr. Baber as Secretary. Mr. Wynne was at this time our Assistant Secretary, to which station his abilities had recommended him, and having held it since the departure of Mr. Verelst, to whom he was Private Secretary, he had acquired a sufficient knowledge of the business to take immediate charge of the office. We have appointed Mr. Browne Assistant Secretary in order that he may qualify himself to succeed Mr. Wynne.

90. The regard we wish to pay to merit and faithful services obliges us on this occasion to mention our late Secretary Mr. Baber as a young gentleman worthy of your favor. He has acquitted himself so much to our satisfaction during the time he has been in the office that nothing but the usual effects of unwearied attention growing fast upon him and the hopes we entertain from his successor would have induced us to have parted with him, and as a testimony of our sense of his services, we have appointed him to succeed Mr. Vansittart in the Residency at Midnapore.

91. We at the same time must commend the attention and close application of your Sub-Accomptant Mr. Lionel Darell to the business of his Department and mention him to you as a gentleman very deserving of your future favors.

92. Mr. Richard Earnshaw, who had your permission to reside here  
 Consn. 14th Aug- as a free merchant, finding his health declining requested  
 gust. permission to return to England on this ship. We have  
 granted it and as he took with him a boy, a native of this country, he  
 entered into an indemnification bond for him, which we send a number in  
 the packet.

93. Mr. John Kidd, late Chief Mate of the *Prince of Wales*, desired to  
 Consn. 23d be accommodated with a passage on board the *Lapwing*.  
 August. As by the surgeon's certificates it appeared that his being  
 detained longer in the country would in all probability prove fatal, we were  
 induced to grant him permission for resigning his post and embarking on this  
 ship.

94. The covenants you sent us to be executed by those who were in Bengal and were appointed writers in your service have been executed by Messrs. Middleton and Crawford, and we return them to you a number in this packet. Mr. Dyneley, the other person for whom you sent out covenants, embarked for England on the *Lyoness*.

95. We have this season had the misfortune of losing by sickness Messrs. Ingram and Coxe, factors, and Messrs. Purling, Jacomb, Price, and Rooke, writers.

96. We have licensed on board this ship sundry bulses of diamonds to the amount of 22,048-12-6 VRs., a register of which goes a number in this packet.

97. Captain Owens having applied to us for 1,000 ounces of silver as a fund in cases of emergency to purchase stores for the ship's  
 Consn. 8th Sepr. use, we ordered that quantity to be delivered to him on his giving a proper receipt, for which we now inclose with an invoice of the treasure numbers in this packet.

We are, with respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,

John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
 Floyer / John Reed / Francis Hare /  
 Joseph Jekyll / Thomas Lane / Richard  
 Barwell.

Fort William,  
 25th August 1770.

P.S.

We have the honor of sending you a number in this packet a plan of the fortifications of Fort William with an account of the progress made since Lieutenant Colonel Campbell took charge of them. You will perceive by the difference between the plan of the Fort as he found it, and the plan of its present state, what good use that gentleman has made of the short time he has been in Bengal. He has indeed been indefatigable and deserves our highest praise.

Since closing this letter we have been obliged through the utter inability  
 Consn. 8th Sepr. of the *Duke of Kingston's* proceeding to Madrass to appoint the *Vansittart* to that voyage. She is now lading and we hope to dispatch her in a short time.

Captain Lewin having represented to us that the *Vansittart* would be too light to beat against the monsoon unless he had a further quantity of saltpetre on board as ballast, we have accordingly ordered 1,000 maunds to be laden on her in addition to the 4,000 maunds already put on board.

We are, with respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,

John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
 Floyer / John Reed / Francis Hare /  
 Joseph Jekyll / Thomas Lane / Richard  
 Barwell.

Fort William,  
 8th September 1770.  
 (Per *Lapwing*  
 Duplicate Per *Prince of Wales*)



## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 31 AUGUST 1770

*A general appraisal of the political situation arising out of the growing power of the Marathas: danger to the Rohillas from the Marathas and the Vazir's reluctance to help them; Shah Alam's resolve to move to Delhi and the little prospect of his getting help from any quarter; Shah Alam informed of the Company's view that his project was inopportune and the Vazir exhorted to form an anti-Maratha alliance—Vazir's opposition to the Company's efforts to restore Munirud-Daulah and Najaf Khan to the Emperor's favour—request for pardon by Madec, a deserter from the Company's army—famine conditions worsen—warlike preparations of the French in the south—information about Zephier, a Frenchman in the service of Basalat Jang—conflict between the Select Committee and the Council.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We hope the letter we had the honor to address you under date the 18th March last by the *Princess Louisa*, a Danish ship then under dispatch for Europe, has ere now safely reached you; a duplicate thereof was dispatched to you overland together with our original letter dated 9th May; and we again addressed you by a similar conveyance on the 28th June last, a duplicate of which letter now waits on you a number in the packet.

2. We proposed by this conveyance to have entered into a minute detail of all occurrences which have happened in your affairs here under the management of the Select Committee since the dispatch of last year's shipping; but the sudden death of our Secretary Mr. Coxe within these few days past obliges us to confine ourselves to a brief recital of the most important events, and to refer you for particulars to our proceedings and the country correspondence, which are brought up to the latest period and are herewith transmitted to you.

3. In former advices we have not failed to apprise you of our apprehensions of the growing power of the Marrattahs and of their success against the Jauts; they have since been employed in depredations in the Rohillah country, and negotiations with the Jauts, which are either calculated to amuse or tediously protracted by the extravagance of their demands. At present they are cantoned near Cowle between the rivers, which at no time have they before ventured to do during the rains, for the situation at this time is particularly critical for an army consisting of cavalry, who must be entirely at the mercy of the neighbouring powers, were they unanimous in their councils or vigorous in their measures. There is therefore great room for presumption that they derive confidence and security from alliances we are yet unacquainted with. The Rohillahs indeed have lately shewn some inclination to spirited measures; but unless they are supported by the Jauts or Vizier the Marrattahs will probably have little to fear, and there is but too much reason to apprehend that a divided government will withhold the former and jealousy inflamed by

a rooted enmity will the latter, so that in all probability the present favourable and singular opportunity of giving check to the career of these disturbers of Hindostan will be suffered to pass unessayed. As their views must be equally interesting whether they are immediately directed towards these provinces or against our neighbours, our correspondence with the Vizier and Rohillah chiefs lately has been calculated to open their eyes to the danger with which they are environed from the encroachments and vicinity of such a formidable power, and to encourage them to enterprize for the common safety while the situation of the Marrattahs between the two rivers during the freshes gives them every advantage they could wish for. The Vizier on his part has urged to us the necessity of granting our assistance and his unwillingness to enter the lists without it; but it is probable this is only a pretext, and that he secretly wishes rather to see the Rohillah country overrun by the Marrattahs than stand forth in its defence. He well knows our system of politicks is to avoid distant or foreign enterprizes and therefore rests his assistance on our adopting a very different conduct as he knows it will not be assented to. The King has revived his project of a march to Delhi with more earnestness than ever; he has called upon us for the assistance which we in consequence of a similar determination of His Majesty last year engaged to grant him.<sup>1</sup> He has gone still further and requested an additional force of four or five battallions. His letters bespeak great inconsistency in his councils. He had hitherto spoke of the Marrattahs with seeming confidence and inclined to trust himself in their power. Lately he has expressed an abhorrence of them, and his resolution to march against them. The plan of this expedition, if any plan can be supposed where there is so little appearance of consistency, His Majesty has not thought proper to communicate to us, nor on what allies, resources, and events he rests his hopes of success. If we look round and endeavour to supply this information from conjecture the chief and indeed only person on whom His Majesty must depend is the Vizier, but if we examine his inclination by his interest as well as by his own declarations, His Majesty can have little to expect from him. He has plainly told us that unless a considerable body of your forces attend His Majesty, he can never consent to accompany the Royal standard. If the King means to employ him in concert with the Marrattahs for the accomplishment of his restoration he is scarcely so unreflecting as not to perceive the consequences of such a junction. He might be reduced, should that dangerous power be strengthened by the accession of His Majesties presence, to hold not only his office and his honor, but even his country at their mercy. On the other hand should His Majesty mean to employ him against the Marrattahs the object would be tempting to his ambition, but too formidable for his courage, and even above his strength unless he could ensure some formidable ally. The Vizier, we make no doubt, will reserve his treasures and his forces for less hazardous undertakings.

4. The Rohillahs are powerful, but their policy looks not abroad; and if we are to judge from their late and present conduct with respect to the Marrattahs, it is more contracted than the laws of self-preservation can justify. Can it be supposed that they who have wanted activity to attend to their own defence possess enterprize for the grand undertaking of restoring a King to his throne, or that they would hazard their safety to bring about an event which at best would put them in possession of a very precarious grandeur or reduce them finally

11th August.

to a state of insignificance? The Rohillah State is respectable within itself, but would never maintain a ballance among the other powers of Hindostan. Nijib-ul-Dowlah has the reputation of being the most consummate politician in the Empire, but how well he has upheld that character in his unnatural alliance with the Marrattahs and his almost incredible league against his own countrymen it remains to discover. It is reported that he begins to see his error; however his force is unequal to his undertaking, and the same circumstance which would operate in the Vizier and the other Rohillahs would deter him from standing forth: what his politicks are or will be it is impossible to judge till time throws a better light on the principles of his conduct, but it would outwardly appear that from the beginning to the present highth [sic] of the confused state of Hindostan he has proceeded in a diametrical opposition to his own interest, and this we cannot reconcile to his character.

5. We would in short establish it almost as a certain proposition that it is contrary to the interest of any of these powers to assist His Majesty in his restoration, that singly neither of them can enter the list with the Marrattahs, and that to form them into one body in one cause is from the political genius of Hindostan, the characteristic manners of the people in general, and of the chiefs in particular, is improbable if not an impracticable event.

6. A question here presents itself whether it is probable that the King finding himself disappointed by some and rejected by others would alone venture to join the Marrattah army. His Majesty's disquietude, his impatience, and even his most chimerical proposals are not unnatural in his circumstances; yet we can scarcely believe him capable of so rash, so fatal a determination. It follows then that this expedition will, according to present appearances, terminate like the last in nothing.

7. We are now come home to ourselves. When we last year engaged to assist His Majesty with two battallions of seapoys we had in view the circumstance of that particular period, and which cannot be deemed obligatory on this Government in other circumstances at any future time.

11th August. Whether His Majesty acts in conjunction with or against the Marrattahs it would be equally absurd in us to engage in the expedition. In the one case we shall be aiding to the aggrandizement of a power which we have most to fear from, and consequently right to be most jealous of. In the other case we should become aggressors in a war with that power without any immediate interest to serve or any inflicted injury to resent. Had His Majesty, when these engagements were made, called upon us for their performance we could not have refused him the promised assistance without justly incurring the charge of violation; but since he did not then think proper to demand our aid we can no longer think ourselves bound for the performance of those engagements. At the time to which we allude the Marrattahs had not passed the Nubuddah, nor was that event so much as apprehended. They are now become arbitors of Hindostan and conquerors of a considerable part of it. To engage in measures which must counteract the established maxims of this Government and run counter to the most obvious rules of good policy for the sake of the King is an idea we could never admit, and at a time when restless disposition of the French seems busy in forming machinations against us we deemed it incumbent upon us to be more

particularly cautious of making the Marrattahs our enemys or of parting with any of your forces.

8. Though these were our sentiments we judged it more advisable to disguise them to His Majesty than to disgust and estrange him from us by a flat refusal of assistance. So doubtfull a conduct must indeed give him some discontent, but better so than that his hopes should be at once destroyed. We have therefore through our President pointed out to His Majesty the many dangers to which he must necessarily be exposed should he execute his intention of marching from Allahabad, and have used every agrument in our power to dissuade him from the enterprize. To the Vizier we have frankly declared that the present situation of affairs considered we do not think this a proper time for His Majesty's intended undertaking, that it presents too many dangers for him to hazard his Royal person, and that instead of sending to His Majesty's assistance the additional battallions of seapoies he lately requested we could wish to withhold from him the two battallions before promised untill the King's purpose could be effected with less apparent risque to himself. We have as plainly informed the Vizier that his grand object at present should be the reduction of the Marrattah power, that to seperate Nijib-ul-Dowlah from the confideracy, to inspirit and reinforce the other Rohillahs, and to effect a coalition among the leaders of the Jauts were the measures most likely to accomplish this end, and we therefore recommended them to his most serious consideration.

9. In the course of the country corespondence may be observed the part we have taken in interceeding with His Majesty for the reinstatement of his faithful servant the Nabob Munerah-ul-Dowlah<sup>2</sup> in his household. We have not a doubt of His Majestie's affection to this old Minister, but under the influence of the Vizier, whose enmity towards him is grafted in jealousy, the King has given his assent with reserve, and in confering some exterior marks of honor upon him has at length recalled him to the presence with assurances of his Royal friendship and protection. The apprehension of the Vizier's jealousy operates strongly upon him. Without his former power and influence over His Majesty his return would be of little use to us, and he, we fear, will be averse to it. We cannot but view with regret the superior influence of the Vizier to the prejudice of so trusty a servant when we consider that only since his leaving the presence have arisen the unsteady and unconfidential conduct of the King.

10. In our letter under date the 18th of March last we advised you that His Majesty had dismissed Nijib Cawn from the Government of Corah and had conferred it on an officer in his service named Saw-ide-Cawn, a creature of the Nabob Sujah-ul-Dowlah. We therein particularly acquainted you with the measures we were taking with His Majesty to prevent if possible Nijib Cawn's falling a victim to the Vizier's resentment and to restore that approved and gallant officer to the King's protection. We deemed him to be the most proper person to defend the King's frontiers in case of an invasion from the

11th August. Marrattahs and earnestly recommended it to His Majesty  
Letter from Cap- to restore him to the command of the Corah province. The  
tain Harper, 15th King acquainted his Vizier with this our recommendation  
July. of Nijib Cawn for the command of that province, at which  
he appeared much dissatisfied and declared if Nijib Cawn should be employed



on that service he would not assist the King's affairs in that quarter with a single man, for that he looked on the protection of that province to belong particularly to himself, and that it would be a dishonour to him in the eyes of the world to have a man whom he knows to be his enemy stationed to defend a country that was lately taken from him and which is the frontier of the Royal territories. These, the Vizier's sentiments, were communicated to us by Captain Harper, and we hesitated not to satisfy his mind in a point which

Letter to Captain Harper. seemed to give him such displeasure by directing that officer to intimate our most hearty concern to the Vizier that he should have taken offence at such a recommendation which

had not in reality the most distant reference to him, that it was no more than an occasional thought to provide better for the security of that frontier on the near approach of the Marrattah parties, and that we were happy to find he considered that country to be so immediately under his protection. His

Letter from the Proceedings 9th August. Majesty has nevertheless, at our earnest requisition, retained Nijib Cawn with his chosen body of troops in his service, on condition that the ballance which appeared due from that officer to the Royal sircar on the late settlement of

accounts should be deducted from their pay. This has been represented to us in most lively and distressfull colours by Nijib Cawn, who pleads the utter impossibility of maintaining his troops on such hard terms, not being able from his present want of money and decline of credit to obtain any other resources than from the annual stipend granted him by treaty. As policy as well as regard to past services dictate the necessity of preserving an officer of his established character in His Majestie's service at this critical conjuncture we have been again induced to interceed in his behalf; and arguments urged to His Majesty on this occasion was our apprehensions that as Nijif Cawn's horse are a chosen body, and he himself has unquestioned merit as a soldier, to deprive the Royal army of his services by compelling him to disperse his troops for want of subsistance, which must inevitably be the consequence of any deduction of the arrears due to them, would be hurtfull to His Majestie's interest.

11. Captain Harper informs us that he has been requested by Mr. Madec,<sup>3</sup> an officer in the Jaut service, to solicit his pardon for deserting the English colours, that he be permitted to reside in any part of Hindostan, and that if his fortune should lead him into the provinces to be protected by the British Government, he on his part promises the utmost extent of his abilities to be of service to his former masters and binds himself never to take up arms against them.

12. The application of Mr. Madec may, we think, be converted to your advantage, but we would chuse that he should demonstrate the sincerity of his contrition by his services before we can possibly incline to grant his request. If he should have raised himself to any degree of eminence amongst the Jauts we apprehend that he may be made a useful channel of intelligence, and if his capacity fits him for negociation that he may be employed in effecting a reconciliation of the principal chiefs for the purpose of exterminating their common enemy, the Marrattahs. His correspondence should be carried on directly with the President, and we should soon discover what we have to expect from the exertion of his talents. We have therefore signified to

Captain Harper these our sentiments by way of preliminary to our entering into any kind of agreement with that deserter.

13. If the accounts transmitted in our letter of the 9th May last of the general calamity which famine had extended to almost every part of these provinces were truly alarming how much more so must they now be when we inform you that our miseries have been daily increasing to the present period, nor do we view relief but at a distant prospect.

14. It naturally follows that from so calamitous an event great failures in the collection of the revenues must be the inevitable consequence; but still we are willing to hope they will not be so great as our apprehensions have conceived. This however is an avowed truth, that it will be a length of time before the effects of so horrid a famine will cease to be felt and ere the country recovers from its present depopulated state.

15. Bulwant Sing has for some time past been in a declining state of health. The succession to the zemindaary he now holds is an object worthy of attention as it appears to be of great importance to your political interest. In other hands than in a family attached to your Government, from motives of interest and security as well as from fear of the Vizier, we should probably be deprived of so useful a barrier. But when we consider the difficulty and great delicacy which must attend a negotiation of this nature from the confirmed hatred and jealousy of the Vizier to the present possessor we fear our endeavours to obtain so important a point might be rendered fruitless.

16. As the *Lapwing* packet is first destined to Fort St. George, from whence she will receive her final dispatches to Europe, we doubt not you will be fully informed by the gentlemen of that Presidency of all important transactions in the Decan. We cannot however omit transmitting to you some private intelligence which the President some time ago received from Pondichery. This paper of intelligence imports that by a packet boat which arrived at Pondicherry from Bourbon on the 27th May last they were made to expect the daily arrival of three ships with money for the use of that settlement and six hundred men of the legion to reinforce that garrison, that there would be then about 1,200 men at Pondichery and 300 at Mahée, that it was currently reported there were between eight and ten thousand Europeans at the Islands, that there were constantly persons going to and coming from the army of one Zephier, a French deserter, whose party is not at a great distance from Massulipitam, and that warlike preparations are making with all possible dispatch.

17. Upon receipt of this foregoing advice we recommended to the President to write to the Chief of Massulipatam concerning the above mentioned Zephier in order that proper measures might be taken to investigate his plan of operation, to watch his motions and discover the tenor of his negotiations with the country powers. The information obtained from Mr. Wynch is that Zephier is a French partizan in the pay and service of Bassalut Jung<sup>4</sup>, who is possessor of a tract of country to the south of the Knitna [Kristna], which runs down to the sea coast, that he is a man of no education but endowed with a great share of natural abilities, that he is sober, steady and brave, that he at this time commands a troop of huzars, a body of two or three hundred infantry, and a battallion of seapoies. This partizan is supplied with necessaries and military stores by the French from Pondichery.

18. Dissentions and want of unanimity have such an evil tendency in weakening the sinews of Government that it is not without the deapest concern we have to acquaint you with an impeachment of the powers of the Select Committee by the Council which has given rise to much contest between the two Boards. For the arguments that have been urged and the particular opinions of the different members we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings in both departments, being too various to be traced in abstract. We cannot however avoid remarking with particular satisfaction that our sentiments are confirmed by those of our absent members, and that we have done everything that regard to our own characters and the duty we owe to you could in our conception warrant us to uphold and maintain the authority with which you have been pleased to vest your Select Committee.

Proceedings.  
21 and 28 June.

19. On a slight view of the debates on this occasion the delicate situation of the Committee will doubtless occur to you, as their powers, though clearly defined by you, may now be arraigned and counteracted at pleasure by a majority of the Board. We therefore flatter ourselves it is unnecessary to urge the necessity of your explicit sentiments on the subject of the contest in question, and how far the line drawn by you in January 1768 stands in force, or renders the Committee independent of the Council, for untill then there can be no stability of measures, and circumstances may arise when an undetermined authority may be attended with serious consequences to your affairs.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves with the utmost respect,

Fort William,  
the 31st August 1770.

(Per *Lapwing*)

Duplicate per *Prince of Wales*  
Triplicate per *Duke of Kingston*)

Honorable Sirs,

Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,

(Signed) J. Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

11

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1770

*Death of Balwant Singh, Raja of Benares: the Company's anxiety to secure the Vazir's consent to the continuance of the zamindari in his family—the famine and the state of revenue collection in Bengal and Bihar—Bihar Supervisor's proposal for a three-year revenue settlement favoured, but no action taken pending the arrival of the Commissioners—conflict between the Select Committee and the Council.*

[ ] O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We think it absolutely necessary to address you again as some circumstances of much importance has happened since closing our last dispatches.

2. We have just received advice of the death of Rajah Bulwend Sing, who died at Benarass the 23rd ultimo after a short indisposition of some hours. A few months ago the Rajah had gone through a long and painful sickness, of which he had apparently recovered, and barring his old age and the infirmities incident to it he was far from being considered in any immediate danger. In our former letter, gentlemen, we expressed our sentiments of the consequence it was to your affairs that the succession to the Zemindarry of Benares should continue in the family, but that it was a delicate point to accomplish with the Vizier. A regard to your interest has long made it our wish, but the doubtfull conduct of the Vizier has for some time made it an unseasonable measure. The occasion however now demanded immediate dispatch and the President was requested to write the Vizier accordingly in favour of the son of the late Rajah in terms that would least awaken his jealousy. The time has been, gentlemen, when this might have been made a demand, but circumstances are now much changed and even address is necessary to solicit.

3. A jealous suspicious disposition of the old Rajah assisted by the distrust of their own children inherent in the minds of the people of this country may possibly have been the reason why the son was not included in the treaty of '65, for had he expressed a wish to secure the Zemindarry in his own family at a time when the Vizier was receiving back his country from our hands a doubt can scarcely be formed but it would have been attended with success; but suspicious probably of the consequences that his son should think he had a right to the succession, and equally fearing that the measure might be attended with a considerable reduction of his treasures from the usual presents made on such occasions, his whole aim seemed to centre in self-security without the least attention to the good of his posterity. Indeed it would appear at a time when lately his life was despaired of, this thought first struck him, and he was desirous then to engage our interests and appeared no way backward to satisfy the Vizier as to any pecuniary present which might be expected from him; but he was no sooner free of danger than the love of money returned upon him and he became no longer eager to obtain his wish but solely through our supposed interest with the Vizier and meeting with no inconveniences to himself.

4. In our letter of 1st instant<sup>1</sup> we did not give you the necessary information as to the state of your *Dewanny* revenues as we conceived it would be a topick of the General Letter from the Secret Department, but as they have declined to treat on that subject we think it our duty to be as particular as may lay in our power on a matter so very interesting to the Honourable Company and for which your Select Committee are in particular manner responsible to you for their conduct.

5. In the several letters from this Committee we have endeavoured to give a very faithfull, candid and impartial account of the distress this country has suffered from the severity of a famine—indeed it is scarcely possible that any description could be an exaggeration of the misery the inhabitants of it have encountered with. It is not then to be wondered at that this calamity has had its influence on the collections; but we are happy to remark they have fell less short than we supposed they would when a famine was only apprehended and



when we could form no idea to what a pitch of misery the country would be reduced to.

6. From the annual accounts received within these few days from the Resident at the Durbar we find the sum collected is *sicca* rupees one crore thirty-eight laak two thousand six hundred and ninety three, nine annaes and ten pice (Sa. Rs. 1,38,02,693-9-10), that *sicca* rupees eight laak three thousand three hundred twenty-one, fifteen annaes (Sa. Rs. 8,03,321-15-0) have been obliged to be totally remitted in the different provinces to alleviate the distress of the wretched inhabitants, and that a ballance of *sicca* rupees six laaks fourteen thousand two hundred nineteen, eight annaes (Sa. Rs. 6,14,219-8-0) remains to be collected of last year's agreement, that at the new *pooneah* which commenced the 10th April 1770 a new statement was made, of one crore fifty-two laaks forty-five thousand nine hundred seventy-nine rupees, fifteen annaes, twelve pice<sup>2</sup> (Sa. Rs. 1,52,45,979-15-12) for Bengall, which our Resident from the authority of Mahomed Razah Cawn gives us some faint hopes of realizing should the season prove favourable, notwithstanding the loss the country has sustained in the number of inhabitants. But we, gentlemen, cannot be so sanguine, or shall we flatter you with hopes of such good fortune when we consider the miseries the country has suffered, the numbers of industrious peasants and manufacturers destroyed by the famine. We should be presumptuous to raise your expectations when there is so much probability of their being disappointed. Riches are the consequence of industry and population, and when there is defect either in one or the other a failure must be expected, and no remedy for the evils occurs but a length of time and lenient measures.

7. By our last advices from the Supravisor of Bahar we find that *sonaut* rupees thirty-six laaks fifty-nine thousand six hundred and fifty-eight (St. Rs. 36,59,658) have been collected of the last year's settlements; but as his accounts are not finally closed or the collections finished it is not in our power to ascertain with accuracy by the present opportunity the remission he may have found necessary to make or the ballance that will be outstanding. Of this we shall be able to acquaint you by our November ship, as likewise of the new statements he may make for the present year. The expectations we entertained of the arrival of the Commissioners prevented us in some measure from giving our sanction to a proposal made us by the Bahar Supravisor for letting the country out on a lease of three years. This mode, we are sensible, might be attended with many good effects; but as Supravisors were then appointed for the business of the collections in that province we thought it might be better to have a thorough knowledge of the country before we entered on the measure, and that the influence of the Supravisors would, we hope, in many cases be a check to the avidity and oppression of the different *Aumils*.

8. It is with concern, Honourable Sirs, that we are through necessity obliged by the channel of the Select Committee to enter on a vindication of our conduct which took place in a Council that was held the 8th instant. This meeting of the Board was purposely called for the approval of the General Letter from your Secret Department and which the Secretary had prepared by the direction of our President. When a scene of different and divided opinions unhappily takes place at your Publick Board and those opinions of

importance to those who gave them, our President thought it becoming the impartial conduct of a Publick Board to make a simple reference to the proceedings themselves than to enter on particular or partial representations, which can only be designed to establish a favourable idea of one side of the question. This moderate mode, so consistant with the usual custom of the service, so well supported by the spirit of impartiality, decency and decorum, we are sorry to observe, met with the disapprobation of the majority of the Board, who by a majority of voices substituted in its room such additions and paragraphs as we thought evidently tended to exhibit a partial representation of the entire state of the dispute and conveyed a design to impress the most unfavourable opinion of the conduct of your Select Committee. Such an open and avowed attack on the customary form of decency and so ungenerous an advantage taken by a majority, your records do not hitherto exhibit. Were we actuated by the same principles we could throw a very different light upon the matter, but conscious that our conduct wants no gloss we trust to your candour and justice and to the proceedings themselves, which are full and explicit, making it our earnest request that the representation from the Board may not make any impression untill it can be compaired with the proceedings. Your President gave in a minute declaring his disapprobation of the proposed additions, and likewise if those were to form a part of the General Letter, as they seemed they were by the voice of the majority, he could not consistantly with his character give it the sanction of his name. The President is sensible of the strict propriety of signing his name to all publick proceedings which may be directed by the voice of the majority of the Council, as well as to every order which may by that majority be sent to our inferiors, however repugnant it may be to his own sentiments; but he considers a letter to his honorable masters in a different point of view and can never think it his duty, because it nowhere appears to be their command, to put his name to an address which implies a censure of his conduct, which he always has wished might appear to your judgment consistant and uniform. Mr. Russell in some measure and Mr. Floyer altogether concur in opinion with the President; but as there are many other points mentioned in the General Letter from the Secret Department which have not admitted of any debate and do not personally reflect on their conduct they have preferred the method of subscribing their names to that letter with their dissents annexed thereto, because they believe the necessary forms of conducting publick business requires it of them and principally because they conceive such a measure to be more consonant to your wishes.

9. Most truely sorry we are, Honorable Sirs, to be engaged in such an embarrassing situation from which we are inclined to apprehend may result many great and important inconveniences to your affairs. But be assured the moderate though uniform conduct of your Committee shall be exerted to render them as light as possible.

Fort William,  
11th September 1770.  
(Per *Lapwing*  
Duplicate per *Prince of Wales*  
Triplicate per *Duke of Kingston*)

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most faithful and obedient  
humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1770

*Sundry matters relating to shipping, service, charter party, etc.—the cases of Lt-Colonel Winwood and John Stormonth.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last address was sent by the *Lapwing* under date the 25th of August with a postscript dated the 8th September, a duplicate of which we now enclose.

2. The *Lapwing* received her final dispatches from hence on the 13th of September and she left her pilot on the 20th of the same month.

3. You will receive this address by the *Prince of Wales*, who was under dispatch the 25th of last month. But the great mortality amongst her crew and the unfavorableness of the season rendered her lading impracticable to be compleated by that period although every assistance was afforded her from our Marine Yard.

4. Our utmost endeavours in lading the *Vansittart* and dispatching her to Madrass in proper time have been in vain. So late a departure as in the first week in October must have prevented her arrival at Consn. 27 Sepr. Madrass as [sic] till after the period fixed on by that Presidency for sending all ships to the eastward. We have therefore deemed it more for your interest to defer her dispatch untill December than to incur any risque by her being in the Bay and going to the eastward with the cargo we put on board her at so dangerous and hazardous a season.

5. Captain Gardiner has delivered to us a protest against the damages which he pretends to have suffered by his removal from the command of the *Lapwing*. We send it a number in this packet. Consn. 19 Sepr.

6. In our last letters we mentioned the orders given for sale of the ferrit and damaged goods in the Export Warehouse on the 15th August. The amount of that sale came to current rupees 55,543-9-6. Consn. 25 Sepr.

7. Mr. Wiss, whom we dispatched to Cossimbuzar with the four Italians, is employed by the gentlemen of that factory in winding off a small quantity of cocoons, which they have purchased for that purpose. Consn. 19 Sepr.

8. The writers who are arrived have been appointed to the several offices.

9. Messrs. Richard Gosling and George Du Cane, writers on the last year's list, having requested our permission for their return to England, we have granted it, as the former had been earnestly required by his late father

to return, and the latter by his ill state of health was incapacitated from serving the Company in any of their offices.

10. Lieutenant Colonel Winwood in an address to us requested leave to resign his commission and to proceed to Europe. We have  
 Consn. 19 Sepr. complied with his request.

11. As that gentleman has thought proper to assign as a reason for his request the great disappointment he met with by the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Pearce to the command of the artillery, which  
 Consn. 19 Sepr. he expected would have been reserved for himself agreeable (as he says) to your orders, we deem it a duty incumbent on us to recapitulate to you such particulars of this affair as we before sent you in our letter by the *Grafton*.

12. That in consequence of the decease of Lieutenant Colonel Kindersley we did in consideration of the peculiarity of Major Pearce's case confer on that gentleman the command of the artillery with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. By your orders of March 1768 he expected to succeed Lieutenant Colonel Martin in that command; but Mr. Kindersley, by obtaining the rank of Major previous to his arrival was appointed thereto as the senior officer. On his demise we could not pass over the merits of Major Pearce, who by your orders was to succeed on the first vacancy, and had already suffered a disappointment of his hopes. We thought your first orders had a right to our obedience prior to your second. And we considered that Lieutenant Colonel Winwood was in the intermediate time provided for by his appointment to the infantry, untill we could perform the promise we made of appointing him to the command whenever it became vacant.

13. To lose an officer of Lieutenant Colonel Winwood's merits cannot but impress us with concern. But we should be still more concerned, if in  
 Consn. 19 Sepr. attending to the claims of one officer, we should pass by those of another who by priority was possessed of the justest title and who had already suffered an unexpected and on our side an unavoidable supercession.

14. The appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Champion to the rank of Colonel and the resignation of Lieutenant Colonel Winwood  
 Consn. 19 Sepr. have induced us to appoint Major John Tottingham, the next in succession, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

15. Mr. John Stormonth, who was in the list of assistant surgeons on this establishment twenty-two months and was obliged in the beginning of the  
 Consn. 25th Sepr. year 1766 to resign through an ill state of health, having applied to us for his readmission, we readily granted it; but not thinking ourselves authorized to comply with another request which he made we beg leave to refer it to your determination and decision.

16. As through ignorance of the necessary form of address he did not acquaint the Board that his health was the cause of his resignation, and that he designed, when that was re-established, to return to Bengal if he could be appointed to his former station there, they did not recommend him home for readmission, should he apply for it.

17. And by a continuation of this error he, on his return in 1768, had his petition for a readmission rejected by the Board, as they still were ignorant



of the cause of his resigning the service. The Honorable Court of Directors on his application to them likewise rejected his claim as they found it had not been allowed of by the Board of Calcutta. He therefore accepted of a general warrant, and having learnt from his friends the cause of his want of success, he on his late application to us produced an original certificate from Messrs. Taylor and Hunter, two of our principal surgeons, declaring the necessity of his return to England, as also a declaration from Doctor Heberden of his having applied to him in October 1766 on account of a cough and other symptoms which threat[e]ned a consumption.

18. He now requests to have the twenty-two months which he had formerly served the Company from April 1764 to January 1766 added to his present rank; and we beg leave to recommend this request to your favorable notice, for by an accidental error he has already lost some years which he has employed in fruitless solicitations, and the character he has always borne pleads strongly in his favor.

19. We send by this ship a duplicate plan and state of the fortifications.

20. We have the pleasure of sending you a number in this packet, the Military Pay Master General's books from May 1767 to the end of April 1768.

21. As also the accounts of the Store-keeper of the Works from March 1765 to April 1769.

22. You will herewith receive a list of the army with other papers as per list of packet, which we beg leave to recommend to your notice, as they will enable you to form a better judgment of the state of your army on this establishment than any papers hitherto sent home.

23. The amount of the cargo laden on board this ship is CRs. 8,06,150.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
Floyer / John Reed / Francis Hare /  
Joseph Jekyll / Thomas Lane / Richd.  
Barwell.

Fort William,  
October 1st 1770.  
(Per *Prince of Wales*)

### *Postscript*

1. The *Egmont* arrived here on the 5th instant. She left Madrass the  
Consn. 5 Oct. 18th August.  
Consn. 9 Oct.

2. We have received by her 33 pipes of Teneriffe wine consigned to us by Mr. Colloghan & Son as by their letter dated the 15th March.

3. The *Worcester* arrived here on the 28th instant from Bombay and the *Mansfield* from Madrass on the 29th instant.

4. The ballance in your treasury at Muxadavad on the 30th ultimo was *sicca* rupees 39,720-7-6 and at the Presidency the 23rd instant rupees 12,53,412-12-6.

5. In obedience to your commands we proceeded to the Mint on the 6th instant and took indiscriminately from the money then coining five gold *mohors*<sup>1</sup> and ten *sicca* rupees and ten Arcot rupees, which we sent a number in the packet under the seal and signature of our President.

6. We have by this ship sent to the Governor and Council of St. Helena Consn. 22 Oct. the usual quantity of stores for the use of that island.

7. Mr. Broadbent, who was an officer on this establishment, having resigned and requested leave to return to England, we have granted him a passage on this ship, and as his necessities would not allow his paying for a passage himself, we have agreed to pay the Captain £30 on condition of Mr. Broadbent having fresh provisions during the voyage.

8. Mr. Henry Gardiner, late Commander of the *Lapwing* packet, having Consn. 22 Oct. applied to us for a passage on board the *Prince of Wales* we have granted his request.

9. Mr. Thomas Goodwyn also has been allowed to proceed on her as a passenger.

10. We have also sent on this ship as charterparty passengers the following persons who are invalids and soldiers, whose time of service is expired and have desired to return to England:—

Francis Taylor, Crispin Megrees, John Stivey, Daniel De Buck, Roger Harris, Valentine Collect, Thomas Jemmison, William Driffield, Edward Owens, Jeremiah Swan, John Nicholas, Thomas Burfourd, John Carter, Pitt, Gilchrist.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,

John Cartier / Claud Russell / Charles  
Floyer / John Reed / Francis Hare /  
Joseph Jekyll / Thomas Lane / Richd.  
Barwell.

Fort William,  
October 30th 1770.  
(Per *Prince of Wales*)

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1770

*Defensive measures taken against a reported alliance of the Sikhs, the Marathas, Mir Kasim and Najibud-Daulah—steps taken on hearing of French military activities—land revenue collection low owing to famine—investigation into the fall in salt revenue in Purnea—differences between the Select Committee and the Council on the question of investing Supervisors with controlling powers—request from Raja Durlabhram's son for a jagir—steps taken to check the incursions of the Morung people—negotiations with Janoji Bhosle for the cession of Cuttack—establishment of Maratha supremacy over*

*the Jats and the likelihood of the Rohillas being their next victims : the Company to support the Rohillas against the Marathas—Chait Singh's succession to Benares Zamindari and his gratitude to the Company—rumours of the Vazir's intrigues with the Marathas discounted, but the Company vigilant.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We had the honour to address you two letters by the *Lapwing* packet under dates 31st August and 11th ultimo, and we embrace the opportunity which now presents itself in the dispatch of the *Prince of Wales* to transmit to you a further information of the state of that branch of your affairs under the management of your Select Committee.

2. You have some time since been apprized of the fruitless endeavours of Cosim Ally to trouble our repose and of the improbability of his making any future attempts with more success ; in the commencement of his enterprize there was every appearance that he had by the means of his treasures and intrigue prevailed on some formidable power to espouse his cause. The Marrattahs beyond a doubt maintained a correspondence, and the Seyks appeared desirous to form a junction with him. At this very time it was reported that the confederate armies of the Marrattahs, Seyks, and Nujib-ul-Dowlah were to rendezvouse at Cowle and there concert a plan of operations against Bengall.

3. On the first intelligence of Cossim Ally's designs against the English we turned our attention to such measures as might tend to frustrate his attempts, not so much from any apprehension of immediate danger as from an uncertainty how far the contagion might spread among the neighbouring powers. We had at that time a considerable magazine in the fort of Allahabad and but a small garrison to resist the efforts of the confederate armies should they have been inclined to invest it. It was therefore thought necessary to remove the magazine to Patna, and Colonel Gailliez<sup>1</sup> was directed to transport the stores thither as expeditiously as possible reserving such only as might be required for ordinary use.

4. When corroborating reports from all quarters made Cossim's intentions more fully known to us we called in to our deliberations the Commander in Chief Brigadier General Barker, who according to your directions is to be consulted and considered as a member of the Committee whenever military operations come under debate, in order to form a plan of conduct for Lieutenant Colonel Gailliez and Captain Harper to persue on any sudden irruption of an enemy or the occurrence of any difficult conjuncture, and also to predetermine on a general plan of operations in case your possessions should be threatened with real danger.

5. As the execution of such a plan must necessarily occasion a division of our force, and it was not impossible but the French had fomented the commotions to the westward in order to avail themselves of such a division if they entertained hostile intentions against Bengall, our next step was to deliberate

on the means of guarding against such an event, and in so doing to consult as much as possible the publick security in both quarters.

6. With respect to the French everything convinced that if they intended to invade these provinces their dependance would have been placed on the surprize and suddenness of the attempt rather than on gradual or regular operations. Their want of money would have been an insuperable objection to a long and persevering war. The disadvantages of a strange country and new climate must create numberless evils which the utmost care and good conduct cannot surmount. We were therefore almost persuaded that the blow, if it falls this year, would have been struck before the commencement of the rainy season ; and as early preparations and good intelligence are in such a case the principal objects of consideration, we directed the Resident at the Durbar to apply to the Government for an order that all ships belonging to European nations be stopt at Culpee and undergo an examination, that an officer of the Government with a proper guard be stationed there for that purpose, who is to take a regular account of the guns and men on board the ships ; and should there be found a number of men exceeding two hundred and fifty or any one or two tier of guns mounted or other appearances of a ship of war, the officer must then prevent such ships from proceeding up the river and make report thereof to his superior. For the better enforcing this Regulation the Resident at the Durbar had it in charge to request of the Nabob Syf-ul-Dowlah to issue orders under his own seal to several Chiefs and Governors of the European settlements in Bengall that they instruct all pilots in their respective services to act conformably to this Regulation, and in this no partiality to any particular nation was to be shewn.

7. For the further obtainment of intelligence we recommended to the President and Council to fit out the *Amazon* schooner with three months provisions and dispatch her on a cruize in the Bay as far as the island of Ceylon, and that instructions should be given to the Captain in case of meeting an enemy or having cause to suspect one he immediately call at Madrass, deliver his intelligence there, and make the best of his way to this port, but should the cruize be ended without any extraordinary occurrence he was then to proceed to Madrass and receive on board any packet for this Presidency as might have arrived on the China ships.

8. It is unnecessary we are persuaded to enumerate the many advantages to be reaped from forming the numerous inhabitants of this settlement into a regular corps of militia. They will doubtless appear to you in as strong a light as they have been viewed by the Council, who at our recommendation have embodied a militia composed as well of your servants as of the other inhabitants.

9. To form a plan for the disposition of our troops came next under consideration as this was a matter which required the greatest circumspective consideration. General Barker has very fully laid before us his sentiments on the occasion, which point out the measures to be persued in case of an invasion, unless circumstances should hereafter occur so as to occasion any alteration in the system he has recommended.

10. We flatter ourselves that these necessary precautions for the defence and security of your valuable possessions in this part of India and the measures



which have appeared to us necessary to be persued on such an occasion will  
 16th and 17th receive the honor of your approbation. Our deliberations  
 July. and the orders issued in consequence are very fully record-  
 28th June. ed on the face of our proceedings, to which we beg leave to  
 refer you for your further information.

11. We have in our several advices treated as fully as was in our power on the suspicious conduct of the French from conclusions naturally drawn from the military preparations at the Islands and in all parts of India at the beginning of the present year, an instance of which occurred in their purchasing 700 draught bullocks in and about the district of Purnea province, when we requested the authority of the Government might be interposed to prevent their being sent to Chandernagore. The consequence of this application was a seizure of those bullocks under pretence of these being required for the cultivation of that province.

12. A list of such French ships as we have been informed have arrived in India this year, waits on you a number in the packet ; also copy of an authentic list of such French as have touched at the Cape since the year [...] from which you may form a tolerable judgement of their growing strength in India.

13. In the month of June last our President received intelligence from the Resident at Midnapore that three large French ships and two sloops, with troops on board, were seen at a place called Cudgung, lying about 15 leagues south-west of Point Palmeiras and about 20 leagues north-east of Jaggernaut. The snow *Amazon* under the command of Captain Gordon was ordered to prepare immediately for sea, and as soon as the season permitted was dispatched with orders to look into all the ports down the coast as far as Gangam ; which service being performed the Commander on his arrival at Ganjam reported to Mr. Cotsford, your Resident there, as he did to our President on his return hither, that he had neither seen or heard of any vessels being at Cudgung. That some had been there was indeed sometime after Captain Gordon's return reported by Mr. Alleyn, Resident at Cuttack, and that they were trading vessels belonging to Armenian and Mogul merchants at Chinsurah that had lost their passage to the Coast. But as this intelligence was not communicated by Mr. Alleyn until a considerable time after the vessels were said to have left Cudgung, and as it was accompanied with many improbable circumstances, we could not but be of opinion that the whole of the report was entirely groundless ; for had any vessels been at that place, it is almost impossible from the measures taken, but we must have obtained a very particular account of them. And in this opinion we are now the more confirmed as four months are elapsed since the first intelligence reached us without any further information being sent us of such an event. This intelligence being early communicated to your Presidency at Fort St. George, an officer of Sir John Lindsay's was sent to explore that part of the Coast. This service effected, the said officer arrived in Bengall, and has informed us he could not find there had been any such ships seen in those parts.

14. In our last address you were advised of the neat sum collected last year from the province of Bengall, the ballance remaining to be collected, and the amount of the new year's agreement at the last *pooneah*, which was held with the usual ceremony at Moorshedabad on the 10th April last.

15. We could not avoid taking notice of the sum remitted from the last year's settlement, although we were persuaded that the Resident at the Durbar and Mahomed Reza Cawn were compelled to the necessity of making so considerable a reduction from your revenue in order to answer the humane and indeed the political purpose of relieving the truly calamitous state of the country and its wretched inhabitants.

16. When we reflect on your orders on and expectations from the duties arising on salt, we cannot but be greatly concerned at the disappointment you must necessarily meet with, from the last year's produce of that branch of your revenue. Its falling so very short of your estimate makes us strongly suspect that the *Phousdar* of Hughley has either been extremely negligent in his duty, or dishonest in the management of the business committed to his charge. This district is now under the management of a Supravisor from whose investigation the conduct of the *Phousdar* will be fully discovered, and if it appears that he has committed any fraudulent actions, we shall call him to a very severe account. Under the Supravisor we expect this important branch of your revenues will be revived and ascertained with greater precision than it has hitherto been.

17. From the very serious representations of the Resident at the Durbar and Mahomed Reza Cawn, we were at length with much difficulty induced to withdraw from some of the Supravisors that controuling authority which the Committee intended should be vested in them all. We thought an adherence to the original plan more suitable to the consistency and dignity of Government than a change which might, if an association really existed, inspire the accomplices with fresh courage and confidence. The Resident at the Durbar, on the other hand, assured us that the collections could not be carried on if the controuling power was continued to those gentlemen, that it would interrupt business and create pretexts for ballances, that the active power was the only effectual one, and that it was too great to be entrusted to all at once. And he further urged the distresses of the conjuncture and insufficiency of your funds, which he thought made it a most unfit season for experiment, offering it as his opinion at the same time that it would be most expedient to commence by slow degrees first to invest a few of the Supravisors

Proceedings, 28th June. with the active power, and to confine the rest to the administration of justice and the improvement of themselves in the knowledge of the country. Many other forcible arguments, which are recorded in our proceedings, were urged on this occasion, and we therefore at length gave our consent that the controuling power should for the present be only vested in Messrs. Kelsall, Graham, Vansittart,<sup>2</sup> Ducarell and Stewart. But in this our intention has been frustrated by orders since issued by the Council in their Secret Department, confirming the controuling power to all the Supravisors which was originally vested in them.

18. Rajah Doolubram, one of the Ministers at Moorshedabad died on the 1st June last. We embraced this opportunity to diminish your heavy charges of collections by resuming the sum of two laaks of rupees which was annually paid him from your treasury. The son of the late Rajah, who is employed in the Government in the business of revenue, has made application to us for a *jagheer* which his father enjoyed in the Bahar province. But we do not think ourselves authorized to comply with any requests of such a nature

without previously obtaining your permission, and in the mean time have therefore given orders to the Supravisor of Bahar to resume it for the Government. The young Rajah's petition is entered upon our proceedings of the 19th instant, to which we must beg leave to refer you.

19. Complaints have been made to us of the incursions of people from the Morung country to the frontiers of the Purnea province. The greatest part of this country lays at the foot of the hills, that part which borders on Purnea is a very large and rich tract of ground, being in length from the Corsy to the Mahmuda river about 30 coss, and in breadth 16 to 18 from the frontier of the Purnea province to the hills. The forests of saul timbers grow in this place. The land is in general richer and the soil better than that of Purnea, but mostly uncultivated and thinly inhabited, owing chiefly to bad Government and continual intestine divisions.

20. From this and many other circumstances the Resident at the Durbar and Mahomed Reza Cawn deemed it an object of some consequence to the welfare of these provinces to have the low countrys between them and the hills either in the possession of the *Soubah* of Bengall, or a person in friendship with him, that they might serve as a barrier against the mountaineers.

21. As the protection of what you now possess was our main object we were cautious of passing beyond that line in expectation of supposed advantages, and without first duely considering whether that object could not be effected by measures of defence alone. We therefore directed the Resident at the Durbar to secure your own frontiers from future inroads, by detaching a proper force for that purpose; and informed him that should it hereafter appear that the inconveniences represented by the Supravisor of Purnea could not be obviated without our interfering in the disputes between the Rajah of Morung and his *Dewan*<sup>3</sup> we would then take into consideration the most eligible and permanent method of settling the country. In the mean time, the President was requested to write to the *Dewan*, who had possessed himself of the Morung country in such a style as to check his insolence and compell him to a cessation of those ravages which his troops had committed on the borders of the Purnea province.

22. We are glad to find that no more complaints have been made to us on the subject, and we hope our conduct herein will meet with your approbation.

23. His Majesty having indirectly signified to us that he expected a present of three laaks of rupees from the Nabob Mabareck-ul-Dowlah on his accession to the *Subahdaary* of Bengall agreeable to established custom, we desired the Resident at the Durbar to inform us if any such present had been made by the late Nabob, or his predecessor Nizam-ul-Dowlah. From the Resident's information it appeared that the sum of five laaks of rupees was given to His Majesty on a similar occasion by the Nabob Nudjum-ul-Dowlah, and three laaks by his successor Syfe-ul-Dowlah. We therefore did not hesitate to desire the Resident at the Durbar to recommend to the present Nabob to pay His Majesty three laaks of rupees as a token of his respect and allegiance, and as a proper return for the *sunnuks* and honors His Majesty had prepared for him.

24. By former advices from the Select Committee you were informed of the negotiation carrying on with Janojee for the cession of Cuttack<sup>4</sup> and of the probability of its being soon brought to a successful issue. But we are now to inform you that since that period some changes have happened in our circumstances which required that this delicate matter should be considered in a new point of view. Were not the duplicity and national faithlessness of the Morattahs in question, yet the lowness of your finances did not leave us the choice of pursuing the negotiations; and the probability of disturbances at home rendered this affair still less favorable to an extention of territory, which must have necessarily created a division of your force and an accumulation of expence. However as you had been pleased to appoint Commissioners with special powers to regulate the political system of India, we did not think it advisable to relinquish the matter totally, but preferred the leaving it in such a state of suspence that if the Commissioners, who best knew your sentiments, should determine to resume it they might be enabled to do so with propriety. We therefore dispatched the vakeel of Janojee to his master; and in reply to the last letter we received from him, we expostulated in a friendly manner on the severe accusations with which he therein loaded us; and at the same time insinuated to him that all matters would be shortly accommodated to the satisfaction of all parties. Thus rests at present the business of our negotiation. And as the Commissioners can now no longer be expected, thus it is likely to continue untill a more favorable opportunity presents itself for renewing our correspondence with this Morattoe Chief or untill your pleasure is known.

25. We have already treated so fully on the several operations of His Majesty, the Vizier, the Morattahs and other powers of Hindostan in our letter of the 31st August last that there remains but little to add by the present conveyance. Such material occurrences however as have happened since the date of that address, we now proceed to communicate to you.

26. We cannot regard the late encroachments of the Morattahs but as a circumstance truly alarming, and on their situation during the rains, as but too striking an indication that their designs are yet more extensive than they have hitherto adopted. The superior influence they have acquired in the Jauts country, almost equal to an entire conquest, paves the way for the country of the Rohillahs falling a prey to their ambitious projects; in which case the territories of His Majesty and the Vizier would become our only barrier against the depredations and further incursions of that restless race, and we should thereby be continually subjected to demands for assistance from our allies.

27. In the proceedings transmitted to you by the *Lapwing*, our deliberations were full on the subject of the King's intended expedition to Delhi; and it was therein established as a proposition that it would from various causes probably terminate as the last in nothing. We see no reason to alter those sentiments although His Majesty, by the letters we have lately received from that quarter, appears more determined than ever. However, in case his sollicitude for the favorite object of all his wishes should blind him to prudence and reason and tempt him rashly to the enterprize, we do not think



it consistent with good policy, nor incumbent on us for the reasons we have already assigned, to fulfill our former promise of two battalions of sepoys. We have therefore acquainted Colonel Gailliez that in the event of His Majesty's moving from Allahabad, he is only to make over to him his own battalions, which cannot be withheld, and to urge his want of orders as a plea for not complying with further applications.

28. Were the King's views confined to give a check to the Morattahs by assisting the Pattans and Rohillahs, and could these powers depend on a junction of the Vizier, policy might then demand our hearty concurrence and support, for the situation of the Rohillahs is at present too critical for your interest, which is now interwoven in the peace of Hindostan. On their defeat or success depends the tranquility of these provinces. They form a barrier, which once removed the dominions of the King and Sujah ul Dowlah will be either exposed to the depredations of the Morattahs, or the King and Vizier must join their cause. In the former case, we are bound by treaty to unsheath the sword; in the latter, we shall be compelled to it in our own defence. War therefore appears inevitable, should the Rohillahs share the fate the Jauts have fatally experienced; and as, we must suppose, they would cheerfully defray the expences of any force sent to their assistance, it would seem prudent, in a political light, as well as economical to join with them at this conjuncture in opposing the Morattahs rather than remain inactive untill they shall fall a prey to their enemies and war is brought home to ourselves when we must support it at your own expence. But a tender regard to your injunctions for pacifick measures will ever as in this case preponderate in our resolutions, unless pressing necessity shall oblige us to step beyond the line prescribed for our conduct; and this necessity, we fear, is not very distant. Every precaution in our power, you may be assured, shall be taken to prevent the impending danger with which we are threatened. At present we must rely on the vigilance of the officer commanding your forces at Allahabad for transmitting to us the earliest information possible of even the most distant prospects of an invasion that the necessary dispositions may be made for defending the territories of your allies or your own. The present garrison at Allahabad will, we suppose, in such case be able to defend itself against any sudden attempt untill such a reinforcement as may be judged necessary can be sent from these provinces.

29. The Vizier has through the channel of Captain Harper again called upon us for our advice and assistance in the present critical conjuncture and urged the necessity of being speedily acquainted with our  
25th September. final resolves. He could not at that time have received the President's letter to him under date the 11th August, of which you were apprized by the *Lapwing*; and as we still remained immovable to our first resolution, our only reply was a reference to the beforementioned letter, which contained our sentiments in the amplest manner.

30. In our letter of the 11th ultimo we informed you of the death of Rajah Bulwand Sing, and of the measures we were taking with the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah to induce him to settle the succession of the Zemindaary of Benares on the late Rajah's son. The Nabob immediately dispatched Allage Cawn as his agent to Benares in order to open a negotiation with the young rajah, which he in person had at first seemed desirous of concluding, and accordingly

fixed a day for his departure from Fayzabad ; but being prevented from his purpose by indisposition, and wisely judging that the march of his retinue through the country might at that time be prejudicial to the new crop, he desired Captain Harper, immediately on receipt of the President's letter, to proceed as expeditiously as possible with his battalion of sepoys to Benares and to be present at the conferences held between his agent and the late Rajah's son. The demands made by the Nabob's agent were twenty laaks of rupees as a *nuzerannah* and five laaks per annum as an addition to the sum stipulated by the treaty of 1765.<sup>5</sup> The terms<sup>6</sup> were however finally concluded on the 8th instant, when the *nuzerannah* was settled at 17 laaks and the required increase was reduced to 2½ laaks of rupees. Permit us, Honorable Sirs, to congratulate you on so very happy a conclusion of an event we deem highly important to your interests.

31. The Vizier's readiness in complying with this our earnest recommendation and request has afforded us the greatest satisfaction, and is a circumstance the more pleasing as it must give strength to the opinions of the several powers in Hindostan of the strict friendship subsisting between the English and him ; and his having considered Captain Harper as a necessary witness to the negotiation carrying on between his agent Allage Cawn and the young Rajah Chaet Singh will serve as a proof to the world that he meant not to take any measure therein that might give the least cause for suspicion on our part. And here we must express our belief that so delicate a matter being brought to a speedy issue without those altercations and difficulties which generally take place in treaties of this nature has been in great measure owing to the prudent conduct of Captain Harper.

32. The President was requested to acquaint the Vizier with the proper sense we entertain of the attention he has paid to our recommendation, and that we consider it as an additional proof of his friendship.

33. Captain Harper informs us that there were several competitors for the Zemindaary of Benares, amongst whom was a grandson of the late Rajah Bulwand Singh,<sup>7</sup> who was strongly supported by the *Bramins* because his mother is the wife of a *Bramin*, and to whom indeed he gives the prior right of succession for this reason, that Chaet Sing is not the issue of Bulwand Sing's wife but of a Rajepoot woman whom the Rajah took into his family. This matter does not seem to be properly understood by Captain Harper ; for when it is considered that by the tenets of the Gentoo laws the right of inheritance is confined to the issue of the male line to the utter exclusion of that of the female it is evident the pretensions of the grandson can only be urged by *Bramins*, who are ever partial to their own sect.

34. After what has been said in commendation of the Vizier's late conduct towards us, it may appear strange if we should harbor a doubt of the sincerity of his attachment. A very extraordinary piece of intelligence has been lately conveyed to us from Colonel Gailliez. From him we learn that His Majesty has obtained information that the Vizier has been secretly negotiating with the Morattahs and has actually engaged to pay so vast a sum as eighty laaks of rupees on condition that they put him in possession of the country of the Rohillas and of the province of Corah and Allahabad.

19th October.

35. To suppose the Vizier guilty of so notorious an act of infidelity to his sovereign, and of so manifest an infringement of the treaty subsisting between us, would be at once to destroy our present good understanding and the confidence we wish to repose in his alliance, and must necessarily lead us to take early measures for defeating a purpose which threatens the very existence of the Company in the imminent dangers to which these provinces would in such case be exposed. And wholly to disregard a report of such a nature would subject us to the imputation of placing an unwarrantable credulity in his professions of attachment. Were we inclined to yield an implicit faith to this report, the arrival of Omrose Gosseine,<sup>8</sup> one of the principal officers in Sujah ul Dowlah's army, at the Morattah camp with a thousand horse and three hundred sepoys might be urged as a very strong presumption for suspecting the Nabob's conduct; for it must be supposed that chief has been sent thither more for the purpose of negotiation than for the purchase of horses, which is the avowed pretext for sending him thither. On the other hand, when we consider the very recent proof which the Vizier has given us of his friendship by the conduct he thought proper to pursue in settling on the young Rajah the Zemindaary of his late father, we should incline to suppose that the King's apprehensions for his own safety and his jealousy of the Vizier have induced him to think of this as a stratagem to awaken our fears in the hopes of deluding us into engagements with him against the Morattahs. However, we have taken such measures as we thought most expedient for ascertaining the foundation of this report.

36. We have the honor to transmit you by this conveyance the broken sett of our proceedings since the *Lapwing's* dispatch, together with other papers as per list of packet enclosed.

Fort William,  
the 31st October 1770.  
(Per *Prince of Wales*  
Duplicate per *Duke of Kingston*  
Triplicate per *Houghton*)

We are with the utmost respect,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

*A list of ships which have touched at the Cape of Good Hope to and from India since 1768 to March 1770, the same having been transmitted to the Governor from the Cape.*

<i>Les Vaisseaux</i>	<i>Capitains</i>	<i>D'Ou</i>	<i>Destiné</i>	<i>Arrivé</i>	<i>Parti</i>
1768					
Chevr. du Berger	Le Chevr. Grenier	De L'Orient	Pour Mauritius	6th au mois d' Avril	23rd au mois d' Avril
L' Ajax	Du Fray de la Brangere	Do.	Do.	12th Do.	23rd Do.
La Marquise de Marbocuss	Le Rey	Do.	Do.	22nd Do.	28th au mois du May
La Marquise de Ceuvron	Boisquenay	Do.	Do.	13th Novembre	24th d' Novembre
Le Vavori	De La Ville	De Bourbon	Do.	12th Decembre	24th Janvier 1769
La Marquise de Marbocuss	Le Rey	Do.	Do.	21st Do.	6th Mars
La Ville Vaut[?]	Maugendre	De L'Orient	Do.	31st Do.	12th Janvier
1769					
La Boudaine [?]	de Bougainville	De Batavie	Pour Brest	2nd Janvier	17th Do.
L' Etoile	La Gierandais	De Mauritius	Rose Fort	31st Do.	7th Fevrier
Le Vert Gallant	La Fontaine	De L'Orient	Mauritius	27th Fevrier	6th Mars
Le Beaumont	Le Chivalr. De Levié	Do.	Do.	26th Mars	5th Avril
Le Necessaire	Monsr. Condé	Do.	Do.	12th Octobre	4th Novembre
Le St. André	Fautnel	Do.	Do.	1st Novembre	11th Do.
La Nourvice	Le Baron D'Arras	De Rochefort	Do.	4th Do.	14th Janvier 1770
Le [Villerand?]	Magandre	Pondicherry	L'Orient	15th Novembre	31st Decembre
1770					
La Normande	De Jardins	Bourbon	Mauritius	16th Novembre	
Le Duc de Choiseul	Johannis	Mauritius	Europe	1st March	
Le Telemaque	Le Conne	Bourdeaux	Mauritius	1st Do.	
Le Duc de Raslin	Monier	Do.	Do.	7th Do.	
Le St. Florentine	Guyot	L'Orient	Do.	22nd Do.	
Astrea	Cordera[?]	14th Jany. De			
A Spanish man of war		Cadez			



*A list of ships which have arrived in India from January 1769 to October 1770 as appears from publick and private correspondence.*

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope that two French ships of the line  
 Pro. 16th August 1769. and some frigates had been there. Two frigates have arrived at Pondicherry from the Island.

The *Indian* pierced for 64 guns expected from Europe and two Company's ships.

*Duc de Choiseul* with four transports from France were at the Cape when  
 9th June 1770. the *Valentine* left it.

Private intelligence delivered in by the President mentions their expectations  
 28th June. of three ships from France with money.

N.B.—The above ships are supposed to be included in the Governor's list.

## 14

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1770

*Shipping news and changes in the membership of the Fort William Council.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have since closing our letter received the *Mansfield's* packet  
 Consn. 31st Oct. containing your General Letter under the established heads dated the 23d March 1770.

2. The final dispatch of the *Prince of Wales* will not allow us time for a particular answer to the several subjects contained in your letter.

3. As not the least probable hope now remains of the arrival of the Supervisors<sup>1</sup> your Council here will carry your several commands as far as in their power into execution.

4. Mr. Becher begs leave to return his gratefull thanks for the favor you have been pleased to confer on him by appointing him to succeed Mr. Cartier in the station of President and Governor of Bengal.

5. Mr. Samuel Middleton has in consequence of your orders taken his  
 Consn. 31 Oct. seat at the Board next below Mr. Alexander. He tenders you his warmest thanks for this great proof of your lenity and begs leave to assure you that his gratitude for this favor will be indelible.

6. His covenants we return a number in this packet.

7. Mr. Russell on this occasion has addressed a letter to the Board a  
 Consn. 31 Oct. copy of which we take the liberty of sending a number  
 in the packet.

8. By the *Houghton* and *Duke of Kingston*, who will sail from hence in the course of this month, we shall be able more fully to reply to the contents of the letter which you have honored us with by the *Mansfield*.

9. The expence of the passage of the charter party passengers on board the *Prince of Wales*, whose names we have mentioned in the postscript of our letter by this conveyance, we have directed the Captain to apply for on his arrival in England.

We have the honor to be,  
 Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,  
 John Cartier / Saml. Middleton / Claud  
 Russell / Charles Floyer / Francis Hare /  
 Joseph Jekyll / Thos. Lane / Richd.  
 Barwell.

Fort William,  
 November 1st 1770.

## 15

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 12 DECEMBER 1770

*Shipping news—trade and investment: the activities of the Company's Italian silk winders; supply of saltpetre to European powers and dispute with the Dutch regarding the quantity allowed; bills to Bombay Government to help in investment; removal of restrictions on trade in salt, betelnut, and tobacco—Patna foundry's success in casting guns—reorganisation of the Council—sundry matters relating to service, charterparty, etc.: assistance to Bolts for the recovery of his dues; restrictions imposed on Peacock and Christie, who were permitted to cut timber in Morung; payment of compensation to Captain Justice.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Gentlemen,

1. Our last advices were dispatched by the *Prince of Wales* containing a letter dated 1st October with a postscript dated the 30th, and also an additional letter dated 1st November informing you of the receipt of the *Mansfield's* packet.

2. You will receive this letter by the *Duke of Kingston* and a duplicate by the *Houghton*. The departure of these ships has been somewhat retarded on account of the bills of exchange, of which there are three different setts, made out in triplicate, for as the terms of our engagements were to grant these bills by ye [the] first ship that should  
 To be entered.

sail after the 22nd November we thought ourselves bound to fulfill this article of the agreement.

3. The *Egmont* being leaky was on her arrival brought up to Meyapore  
 Consn. Octr. 9. Creek to be repaired.

4. Captain Hall, Commander of the ship *Worcester*, having reported to the Board that his vessell entered on demorrage, it being four months since her arrival at the first delivering port, we considered it as  
 Consn. Novr. 14. most conducive to your interest to alter her time of dispatch and to make her the fourth ship instead of the last of the season.

5. The President and Council of Fort St. George desired that we would  
 Consn. send them a ship by the end of December to receive a full  
 [Novr.?] 28th cargo from thence, and also two other ships in February and March for half a lading each.

6. As the investment for the present year was likely to amount to above 70 lacks of rupees, as the shipping to be dispatched from hence notwithstanding that agreeable to our former plan we should send only a ship and a half to Fort St. George could not possibly carry home near that amount notwithstanding surplus tonnage on every ship, and as we considered the absolute necessity there was for sending home the whole of our investment to enable our employers to fulfill their engagements with the Crown<sup>1</sup> and to discharge the bills we had drawn on them, add to this the consideration of the superiour value of the Bengal cargoes to those of Madrass and the greater profit on their sales, all these motives determined us to come to the following resolutions, *vizt.*, to dispatch the *Vansittart* to Madrass to take in half a cargo from thence, which the Captain declared could with safety be done, notwithstanding that we had put more than half her cargo on board; to send the *Egmont* in January to receive a full lading at Madrass; and as half a cargo of the Madrass investment would still remain, to dispatch an express to Bombay requesting of that Presidency to order one of their ships to Fort St. George to take in the remainder of that investment, in case the Bombay Presidency could not complete the lading of their own shipping, which by their letters we had reason to suppose would be the case, desiring at the same time that they would send advice of their resolutions overland to the Madrass Presidency to be with them by the middle of February that the Council of Fort St. George might determine regarding the lading surplus tonnage on the *Egmont*. We have also advised the Presidency of Fort St. George that if we should be disappointed in this expectation from Bombay, and if at the latter end of the season our investment should not amount to the calculation we have made, we will then send another ship to be filled up with the remainder of their investment.

7. By these measures we hope the Madrass Presidency will be enabled to send home the two cargoes they expect to provide this season, and we shall likewise have it in our power to lade the whole of our investment on the ships to be dispatched from hence.

8. The *Vansittart* having received on board the proportion of her cargo  
 Consn. Dec. 12th from hence was dispatched this day to Madrass to compleat her lading.

9. The several factories have been furnished with extracts from your  
 Consn. list of investment and directed to comply with your orders  
 Novr. 20th contained therein.

10. Mr. Wiss has been employed in winding silk of the June and July  
*bunds*, the quality of which assortment being much inferior to that produced  
 in the other months prevents us from forming an accurate judgement of the  
 success of his experiments ; but the November *bunds* will enable us to inform  
 Consn. you of the progress he makes and the improvements in this  
 Novr. 13th manufacture. His method is different from Mr. Pouchon's  
 principally by a contrivance to twist the silk as it winds off  
 the cocoons and give it a roundness the want of which was the great defect in  
 Mr. Pouchon's method. He applied for upper room buildings for the purpose  
 of winding silk, one of which was to contain 56 furnaces and was estimated  
 at 20,000 Rs., but as the advantages resulting from this method were not yet  
 ascertained we could not think of incurring so considerable an expence and  
 therefore directed him to prosecute his experiment in temporary buildings untill  
 the success of his improvements should be exactly known.

11. He very strongly represented the insufficiency of the allowance granted  
 to the Italians under him, and the distress which they would suffer without an  
 augmentation were made to it. We were sensible of the justice of his  
 representations on this head ; and as the Company had been at considerable  
 Consn. trouble and expence in engaging these men, from whose  
 Nov. 13th services they expected great improvements in their silk  
 manufactures, we thought them deserving of encourage-  
 ment, and therefore agreed to raise their salary from £31 to £50 each per  
 annum exclusive of the £10 to be remitted home to their families. This we  
 the more readily did as Mr. Wiss informed us that the allowance first proposed  
 for these men was considerably superior to that for which he had engaged  
 them to serve the Company, because both they and he were unacquainted with  
 the nature of their situation in this country.

12. The Cossimbuzar factory purposed sending Mr. Wiss to Comercolly  
 accompanied by Mr. Grueber that he might investigate the produce of that  
*aurung* and take the necessary measures for extending his new system of silk  
 winding.

13. Mr. Robinson arrived in the *Mansfield* and is yet in Calcutta putting  
 in order the machines which he brought out with him in that ship. As soon  
 as he is in readiness we shall direct him to proceed to Cossimbuzar, and as  
 that factory is furnished with copies of your instructions relative to this new  
 method, he will be immediately employed in the most advantageous manner  
 for the service. Our Export Warehouse Keeper has availed himself of  
 this gentleman's knowledge of the manufacture of raw silk by consulting  
 his opinion of the ready money purchases made of this article in your  
 warehouse.

14. The Patna factory having informed us that this season's produce of  
 Consn. Octr. 9th saltpetre at their factory would amount to 109,000 maunds,  
 we resolved on sending 30,000 maunds to Bombay to be  
 laden on board their ships for Europe, and 3,000 maunds more for the



29. On the receipt of your orders by the *Mansfield* for the reduction of your Council and for their residence at the Presidency, we convened a general council of all the members in Calcutta including Messrs. Becher and Kelsall, who were come down from their chiefships, the one on account of his health and the other on private business, when the first part relative to the reduction of Council took place by the four junior members Messrs. Hare, Jekyll, Lane and Barwell vacating their seats. The remaining members agreed to write immediately to the absentees informing them of your orders, of the proceedings of the Board, and requiring their immediate attendance at the Presidency.

Consn.  
Novr. 3rd.

30. The gentlemen who by this resolution quitted their seats at the Board have thought proper to remonstrate against the measure although they had before acquiesced in it. We have not thought it necessary to return any answer to their remonstrance, but refer it and the conduct which we have pursued to the judgement which you shall be pleased to form of their discontent and of our compliance with your orders.

Consn.  
Decr. 8th.

31. Mr. John Miller, attorney to Captain Ross of the *Ankerwyke*, requested that we would allow interest on a sum of money which he had paid into our treasury as part of the Captain's indulgence. We acquainted him that we could not comply with his request as it never had been usual to allow interest on money paid in for certificates. But as this money has been in the treasury above six months, and as Captain Ross had been unfortunate in his voyage, we agreed to refer this case to your consideration.

Consn.  
Novr. 13th.

32. You will receive by this ship an attested copy of the account delivered to the Mayor's Court by the late Mr. John Bryer as administrator to Mr. Saml. Messman, from whence it appears that the ballance was remitted by a draft on his brother in favour of Mr. Daniel Giles.

Consn.  
Novr. 13th.

33. Our Consultations will inform you of the information we have procured regarding the chest of silver sent to the late Mr. Faugoin. We have not yet received an answer from Mr. Paddy's executors.

Consn.  
Novr. 20th.

34. Mr. Crofts has been appointed an assistant to the Council of Revenue at Muxadabad according to your orders in your letter by the [...].

Consn.  
Novr. 14th.

35. Mr. Charles Coxe having requested permission to resign the service and return to England on account of the bad state of his health, we have granted his request.

36. Mr. Alexander having in consequence of our summons arrived at the Presidency, he took his seat at the Board on the 12th instant.

Consn.  
Decr. 12th.

37. Lieutenant Clarke having requested leave to resign his commission and proceed on board the *Houghton* for England, we have granted his request and as we thought his conduct irreproachable we have given him a certificate of his good behaviour while in the service.

Consn.  
Decr. 12th.

38. Mr. Broadbent, whom we mentioned as being a passenger in the *Prince of Wales*, having been detained by his affairs till that ship had sailed, he now proceeds on the *Kingston*, and for the reasons we have before assigned we have allowed the Captain £30 on condition of his furnishing Mr. Broadbent with fresh provisions during the voyage.

Consn.  
Decr. 12th.

39. Messrs. Richard Lodge and John Bell free merchants, have been allowed to return to Europe the former on the *Kingston* and the other on the *Houghton*.

Consn.  
Decr. 12th.

40. Lieutenant Colonel Winwood and his lady also proceed to England on the *Houghton*, and we have granted a passage on the same ship to a son of Mr. Floyer's and an infant daughter of Major Fischers. Mr. Gosling, who had our permission to resign the service, takes his passage on the *Kingston*.

Consn.  
Septr. 19th.

41. The indemnification bonds taken from all those who carry with them any of the natives you will receive numbers in the packet.

42. We have granted permission to Mr. Darell to send home by the Captain of the *Houghton* 10 bulses of diamonds and for Mr. Motte to send 2 bulses by the *Kingston* on the usual conditions; registers of them go numbers in the packet.

Consn.  
Novr. 13th.

43. Lord Clive's attornies<sup>3</sup> having applied for the payment of the amount of the certificates returned to them by His Lordship together with interest thereon, we have discharged their demand. Mr. Floyer having entered a dissent on the occasion we beg leave to refer you to it.

Consn.  
Novr. 29th.

44. The following persons are sent home on the *Kingston* on the terms of charterparty. List of Europeans whose contracted time of service is expired and sent on board the *Kingston vizt.*,

<i>Names</i>	<i>Stations</i>
John Godfrey	Gunner Discharged 22 August 1770
James Humble	Private . . . . 2nd September do
John Harvey	do . . . . . do
John Hatcher	do . . . . . do
Henry Wood	do . . . . . do
Benjamin Bull	Serjeant . . . . . do
William Jarratt	Bombardier . . . . . do
Peter Manly	Gunner . . . . . do
Geo. Lane	Private . . . . . do
John Edwards	do . . . . . do
John Mollineux	do . . . . . do
Robert Jemmison	do . . . . . 29th do
William Stivey	do . . . . . do
Isaac Gregory	Gunner . . . . .
Richard Spratt	Serjeant . . . . 18 December 1770.

use of their Presidency. The Dutch and French having made application for their several proportions, we agreed on allowing them the same quantity as we had done the preceeding year, that is to the Dutch 23,000 and the French 18,000 maunds.

15. An application was made by the Dutch to have their proportion delivered at Chinsurah rather than at Patna offering to pay what extraordinary expences might be incurred by this method; but we declined complying with their request on account of the inconvenience which would attend it and the great risk in transporting this article on the river.

Consn.  
Octr. 11th.

16. We were not a little surprized at receiving from them a declaration that the proportion of saltpetre we had allotted them was not conformable to the privileges of their Company nor agreeable to the terms of prior conventions.

Consn.  
Octr. 22nd.

17. Such an extraordinary assertion after repeated instances where they had made no objections, to the same proportion allotted them by us rendered it necessary to have recourse to our records in order to discover upon what grounds this new claim was founded; and from thence we could only inform ourselves that in the year 1763 the Dutch had appealed to a settlement made (as they pretended) in 1745 by which they were to enjoy an equal share with us, which settlement was annulled by our exclusive grant obtained from the Nabob in 1758; and by a treaty between them and the Nabob Jaffur Ally Cawn in 1760 they were freed from paying the *pishcash* imposed in consideration of their former grant of saltpetre, because they had been excluded from the purchase of that article by the special privilege which had been granted to the English. It also appeared that we continued in the exercise of this grant undisturbed untill by orders from England in 1762 we were directed to wave our right and to suffer the Dutch to purchase saltpeter as their occasions might require, in consequence of which it was after some altercation agreed that they should receive  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the produce of that article for that year, which agreement was not renewed in the ensuing year, nor indeed was any distribution made by us on account of the war with Cossim Ally Cawn, but in 1764 it was again granted to the Dutch with a limitation to that year. As the French factory was re-established in 1765 we began to allow them also a share of the saltpetre, and we thought it but just that the Dutch should contribute from their proportion to make up this allowance for the French. This occasioned a complaint from the Dutch, and in our reply we assigned to them the above reasons for having diminished their share.

Consn.  
Novr. 21.

18. As from this enquiry no arguments appeared in support of the Dutch claim, and as your demand for saltpetre has increased, we determined not to grant to them a larger quantity of this article than what they had received in the two foregoing years. In our answer we acquainted them with our resolution; but at the same time informed them that we should refer their representation to the ultimate decision of our employers.

Consn.  
Novr. 21.

19. We hope that our conduct herein will not meet with your disapprobation. We considered it in the light of a national dispute, and therefore

endeavoured to act with the greatest caution that no hazardous steps of ours might involve you in any difficulties.

20. As from our Consultations you will be amply furnished with information regarding this matter, to them we beg leave to refer you, and to request your directions for our future guidance.

Consn.  
Nov. 21.

21. The Danes having this year renewed their request for 4,000 maunds of saltpetre we have granted them that quantity which we can spare without distressing ourselves, and we considered that we were consulting the interest of our employers in endeavouring to preserve a good understanding and harmony with the other settlements in Bengal.

Consn.  
Nov. 13th.

22. We have had some slight complaint from Chandernagore against some of the servants, but our immediate readiness to procure them every satisfaction and our endeavours to prevent those trifling disputes in future will, we hope, produce the effect we wish for.

Consn. Sepr. 19th  
Consn. Octr. 22d.  
Consn. Novr. 13th.  
Consn. Novr. 20.

23. The gentlemen of Council at Bombay requested a supply of three lacks of rupees in specie and six lacks in bills for their investment this season, besides which they informed us of their design to draw on us for two lacks more.

Consn.  
Novr. 13th.

24. We have readily answered their drafts, but our situation rendering a compliance with their demand of 3 lacks in specie very inconvenient, we resolved on procuring bills in their favour if possible for the 9 lacks required; and we hope for success as we have already procured bills to the amount of 254,000 Rs. and are promised 350,000 more in February from the City<sup>2</sup> exclusive of the sums we have and shall collect at the Presidency.

Consn. Decr. 4th.

25. In obedience to your commands we have laid open the trade in salt, beetlenut and tobacco under such restrictions as may hereafter be framed. Our Secret Department letter will explain to you our proceedings in this matter.

Consn.  
Decr. 12th.

26. The Council of Revenue at Muxadabad having applied for the erection of proper accomodations for themselves and their assistants, we directed that their place of residence should be Mootigill, where there was already sufficient room for the Council, and desired an attention to frugality in the building proper apartments for the assistants.

Consn.  
Novr. 24th.

27. Major DeGloss having cast in the new foundery at Patna seven brass field pieces, 3 pounders and two ten-inch brass mortars, a proof of them was made before the Chief Engineer, Major Ragull of the artillery and Major DeGloss. The report signed by those gentlemen, which stands entered in our Consultations, will inform you that they all stood the proof and were in very good condition except one of the mortars.

Consn.  
Novr. 20th.  
Consn.  
Novr. 29th.

28. The gentlemen at Madrass have promised us a supply of 200 recruits, which will be a very considerable addition to our troops, more particularly as our supplies from Europe this season have fallen far short of our expectations, being in all but 512 men.

Consn.  
Decr. 4th.



29. On the receipt of your orders by the *Mansfield* for the reduction of your Council and for their residence at the Presidency, we convened a general council of all the members in Calcutta including Messrs. Becher and Kelsall, who were come down from their chiefships, the one on account of his health and the other on private business, when the first part relative to the reduction of Council took place by the four junior members Messrs. Hare, Jekyll, Lane and Barwell vacating their seats. The remaining members agreed to write immediately to the absentees informing them of your orders, of the proceedings of the Board, and requiring their immediate attendance at the Presidency.

Consn.  
Novr. 3rd.

30. The gentlemen who by this resolution quitted their seats at the Board have thought proper to remonstrate against the measure although they had before acquiesced in it. We have not thought it necessary to return any answer to their remonstrance, but refer it and the conduct which we have pursued to the judgement which you shall be pleased to form of their discontent and of our compliance with your orders.

Consn.  
Decr. 8th.

31. Mr. John Miller, attorney to Captain Ross of the *Ankerwyke*, requested that we would allow interest on a sum of money which he had paid into our treasury as part of the Captain's indulgence. We acquainted him that we could not comply with his request as it never had been usual to allow interest on money paid in for certificates. But as this money has been in the treasury above six months, and as Captain Ross had been unfortunate in his voyage, we agreed to refer this case to your consideration.

Consn.  
Novr. 13th.

32. You will receive by this ship an attested copy of the account delivered to the Mayor's Court by the late Mr. John Bryer as administrator to Mr. Saml. Messman, from whence it appears that the ballance was remitted by a draft on his brother in favour of Mr. Daniel Giles.

Consn.  
Novr. 13th.

33. Our Consultations will inform you of the information we have procured regarding the chest of silver sent to the late Mr. Faugoin. We have not yet received an answer from Mr. Paddy's executors.

Consn.  
Novr. 20th.

34. Mr. Crofts has been appointed an assistant to the Council of Revenue at Muxadabad according to your orders in your letter by the [...].

Consn.  
Novr. 14th.

35. Mr. Charles Coxe having requested permission to resign the service and return to England on account of the bad state of his health, we have granted his request.

36. Mr. Alexander having in consequence of our summons arrived at the Presidency, he took his seat at the Board on the 12th instant.

Consn.  
Decr. 12th.

37. Lieutenant Clarke having requested leave to resign his commission and proceed on board the *Houghton* for England, we have granted his request and as we thought his conduct irreproachable we have given him a certificate of his good behaviour while in the service.

Consn.  
Decr. 12th.

38. Mr. Broadbent, whom we mentioned as being a passenger in the *Prince of Wales*, having been detained by his affairs till that ship had sailed, he now proceeds on the *Kingston*, and for the reasons we  
 Consn. have before assigned we have allowed the Captain £30 on  
 Decr. 12th. condition of his furnishing Mr. Broadbent with fresh provisions during the voyage.

39. Messrs. Richard Lodge and John Bell free merchants, have been  
 Consn. allowed to return to Europe the former on the *Kingston*  
 Decr. 12th. and the other on the *Houghton*.

40. Lieutenant Colonel Winwood and his lady also proceed to England  
 Consn. on the *Houghton*, and we have granted a passage on the  
 Septr. 19th. same ship to a son of Mr. Floyer's and an infant daughter of Major Fischers. Mr. Gosling, who had our permission to resign the service, takes his passage on the *Kingston*.

41. The indemnification bonds taken from all those who carry with them any of the natives you will receive numbers in the packet.

42. We have granted permission to Mr. Darell to send home by the  
 Consn. Captain of the *Houghton* 10 bulses of diamonds and for  
 Novr. 13th. Mr. Motte to send 2 bulses by the *Kingston* on the usual conditions; registers of them go numbers in the packet.

43. Lord Clive's attornies<sup>s</sup> having applied for the payment of the amount  
 Consn. of the certificates returned to them by His Lordship together  
 Novr. 29th. with interest thereon, we have discharged their demand. Mr. Floyer having entered a dissent on the occasion we beg leave to refer you to it.

44. The following persons are sent home on the *Kingston* on the terms of charterparty. List of Europeans whose contracted time of service is expired and sent on board the *Kingston vizt.*,

<i>Names</i>	<i>Stations</i>
John Godfrey	Gunner Discharged 22 August 1770
James Humble	Private . . . . 2nd September do
John Harvey	do . . . . . do
John Hatcher	do . . . . . do
Henry Wood	do . . . . . do
Benjamin Bull	Serjeant . . . . . do
William Jarratt	Bombardier . . . . . do
Peter Manly	Gunner . . . . . do
Geo. Lane	Private . . . . . do
John Edwards	do . . . . . do
John Mollineux	do . . . . . do
Robert Jemmison	do . . . . . 29th do
William Stivey	do . . . . . do
Isaac Gregory	Gunner . . . . .
Richard Spratt	Serjeant . . . . 18 December 1770.

45. Mr. Henry Grant, who was recommended home in the year 1763 as worthy of the rank of writer to the Honorable Company, having again solicited our intercession in his behalf, we do most particularly recommend him to your notice for an appointment in the next year's list of writers, as we can testify the integrity and praiseworthy behaviour which he has ever been distinguished by since his residence in Bengal.

46. The attorneys of Mr. William Bolts having informed us of the receipt of a copy of your orders regarding his concerns in this country and applied for our assistance to settle them, we have informed them in reply that we had already granted our assistance to recover such ballances as arose from concerns which were lawfull, but if that had not been successfull we were ready to renew our endeavours, but that we could not, consistently with our duty, assist them in the recovery of balances which had been incurred by an illicit trade carried on in defiance of the Company's publick orders, nor can we suppose that your orders in favor of Mr. Bolts were intended to extend to such balances as arose from concerns in trade which had by yourselves been prohibited to all Europeans. Moreover some of these demands are for bribes which his attornies in their letters to us declare were given to officers of Government that they might connive at the landing and selling articles which were seizeable as prohibited. Other demands are for duties on salt paid to the Government by a black merchant, who at that time declared himself the owner, but which is now claimed by Mr. Bolts as having belonged to him. In fine there is scarcely a demand in their letter which does not prove this man guilty of wilful and positive disobedience to your most peremptory edicts and of infringements upon the jurisdiction of Government.

Consn.  
Novr. 29th.

47. Messrs. Francis Peacock and James Christie, who came out with your permission to prosecute the scheme of cutting fir trees in the Morung country, have had our license to proceed thither on the same footing as the late Mr. Myrtell. But as this country has already suffered from the residence of Europeans in remote provinces whose conduct has been under no restraint, we have deemed it necessary to lay these gentlemen under the following restrictions: that they should not engage in any trade for themselves or others; that they should not interfere with the country government nor attempt negotiating with any of the powers bordering on the Morung country or have any commercial concerns with them; that they should be circumspect in their treatment of the natives and avoid all acts of oppression or violence; and that they should on all occasions consider themselves as immediately dependent upon the Company, who had granted them this permission for the sole purpose of cutting fir trees for masts and yards, and of extracting and refining pitch and tar, to which employments all their industry and views should be confined.

48. Under these limitations we are in hopes that this undertaking may be prosecuted successfully and that it may prove of advantage to the trade of India and be a saving to the Company.

49. Captain Willm. Justice, whom we mentioned in our letter by the *Lapwing* packet as having been employed by us in settling with the King of Pegu the dispute about the ship *St. Helena*, has since his return been reduced

to great distress, as his late arrival prevented him from getting employment in his profession and reduced him to the necessity of living at an expence which his circumstances could ill afford. Had he returned with the ship and cargo as we expected when he left this place, he would have been considerably advantaged by the event, and in the hopes of this, he neither desired nor did we offer any consideration for the time he should be absent; but as he has been disappointed in this expectation, and as his present distress is entirely owing to the bad success of the business in which he was employed by us, he has applied to us for relief, and we have ventured to grant him 5,000 Rs. in lieu of his privilege of  $\frac{1}{8}$  of the cargo of the *St. Helena*, and 2,000 Rs. in consideration of his sufferings, his losses and his ruined health.

Consn.  
Decr. 12th.

50. We hope this act of humanity and in some measure justice will not be disapproved by you, as it was done to indemnify the losses of a man who had suffered in the prosecution of an enterprize in which he was employed by us and pitched upon on account of his superiour character for integrity and abilities.

51. The ballance of cash in the treasury at Muxadabad on the 10th instant was *sicca* Rs. 1,11,245-a5-p11-g2 and at the Presidency on the 30th ultimo 20,83,451-1-9.

52. The cargo of the *Duke of Kingston* is valued at 10,03,800 Ct. Rs. and that of the *Houghton* at 9,97,400 Ct. Rs.

53. We have by this ship granted 170 sets of bills to the amount of Ct. Rs. 36,02,371-4-2 or £stg. 397,761-14-0 at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  the current rupee, and 135 sets of bills to the amount of Ct. Rs. 31,06,073-5-9 or £stg. 349,432-13-10 at the rate of  $\frac{2}{3}$  the Ct. rupee, the total amount being 305 sets making Ct. Rs. 67,08,444-9-11 or £stg. 747,194-7-10, payable in 3 years in equal proportions, and bearing interest after 90 days sight at the rate of 3 per cent per annum. A list of the bills we have annexed to this letter.

We remain,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithfull humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Saml. Middleton / Claud Russell / Charles Floyer.

Fort William,  
12th December 1770.

N.B. The list of the bills annexed to the letter was signed by the above four gentlemen.

### *Postscript*

1. The enclosed copy of a letter from the Military Store Keeper with the proof of the powder sent from England this last season will, we apprehend, sufficiently point out the necessity of examining the casks before they are sent on board the several ships, and of issuing most strict orders to have them regularly and carefully turned in the course of the voyage.

2. Lieutenant Halling having requested leave to resign the service on account of the very weak state of his health and to return to Europe, we have



granted him a passage on the *Kingston* and have given him a certificate of his behaviour whilst in your service.

3. Mrs. Gee, widow of the late Captain Gee on the Madras establishment, takes her passage on the *Houghton* and has under her care a son of Mr. Dawson's at Madras.

4. We have also granted a passage on the *Houghton* to a son of Mr. John Graham's, and on the *Kingston* to John Hyles, an orphan sent home by Mr. Joseph Price for his education.

5. The indemnification bonds for such servants, natives of Bengal, as attend on the above persons to Europe, we send numbers in the packets.

6. We have by the *Houghton* granted 3 sets of certificates to the following persons:—

1 set dated 6th April 1770 to John Miller on account Captain Andw. Ross, Commander of the ship <i>Ankerwyke</i> , payable to Captain Andrew Ross for . . . . .	5,477-12-9
1 set dated 24th October 1770 to Captain Richd. Morrison, Commander of the <i>Kingston</i> , payable to himself . . . .	31,629- 6-3
1 set dated 18th December 1770 to Captain Richd. Lewin, Commander of the <i>Vansittart</i> , payable to himself and officers . . . . .	44,444- 7-0
	<hr/>
Current rupees . . . . .	81,551-10-0
	<hr/>

Fort William,  
20th December 1770.  
(Per *Kingston*  
Duplicate per *Houghton*)

We are respectfully,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithfull servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Saml. Middleton / Claud Russell / Charles Floyer.

SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED  
24 DECEMBER 1770

*Control over revenue collection usurped by the Council—presents to Indian princes: reply to charge of extravagance in making certain presents to the Vazir—progress of the Marathas: settlement with the Jats and incursions into Rohilkhand; failure of the efforts of the Rohilla Chief Hafiz Rahmat to get the Vazir's support against the Marathas—death of Najibud-Daulah and its political consequences—Shah Alam's fixed resolve to proceed to Delhi and the likelihood of his joining the Marathas: the Vazir's equivocal conduct—rumours of Abdali invading India again and of a correspondence between Nand Kumar and the Vazir—famine at an end—resumé of the critical situation arising out of the Maratha menace and the necessity of pursuing an*

*“active” policy—postscript: Maratha attack on Kora, a threat to the Vazir’s dominions: resolution to help Shah Alam and the Vazir; troop movements ordered.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Soon after the dispatch of our last address dated the 31st October we were honoured by the receipt of your commands transmitted by the *Mansfield*<sup>1</sup>. We received also from the Governor and Council extracts from your General Letter dispatched to that Board as far as it related to this Department.

2. In consequence of the re-establishment of Mr. Samuel Middleton and of his taking rank in Council next below Mr. Alexander, the President, at our first meeting, summoned Mr. Middleton as a member of this Committee; and he accordingly took his seat with us, the usual oath having been previously administered.

3. At this time the President was enabled to assemble a Committee by the accidental presence of Mr. Becher; but as that gentleman was on the point of returning to his station at the Durbar, and two of the other members were absent from the Presidency, the Governor delivered in a minute representing the impossibility of his calling a future Committee, since it was one of the first rules of our institution that no meeting should ever consist of less than three members. He therefore proposed that Messrs. Russell and Floyer should continue to afford that assistance which they had before given as members, and which the critical situation of affairs rendered particularly necessary at present. The Committee concurring in opinion with the President, Messrs. Russell and Floyer were requested to give their attendance untill the return of the absent members. They accordingly resumed their seats, and Mr. Floyer gave in a minute on this occasion, which is entered on our proceedings of the 7th ultimo.

4. We lost no time in referring to other cognizance such of your commands as regarded matters which, in our present situation, are not under our immediate inspection. We have long since referred to the Board every circumstance relative to the fortifications which the French had begun to construct at Chandernagore, and the Council have informed you of the measures which they deemed necessary to the preservation of our national security and especially of your particular interests. We doubt not your approbation of these measures, as we are fully convinced of the truth of the representations which were made to us, and of the necessity of the steps which were taken; but as the whole were under the immediate direction of the Board, we have referred to them the 2nd paragraph of your letter of the 23rd March.

5. To them we have also referred the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th paragraphs of the said letter. We have no longer the honor of conducting your revenue. This is a charge usurped by the Board, and to them it therefore belongs to explain the causes from whence they have decreased, and the degree to which they will answer the expectations you have conceived. Sorry

we are that our honourable masters should be so severely disappointed. We would wish that the evils impending over this settlement were farther removed than they appear to be, and that a provision against them was not immediately necessary. We would wish too that these evils, however they shall affect us, may only prove a secondary consideration to the Company. But whatever may have been our opinion and whatever the share which we are to have in the execution of your commands, we shall always shew that submission which is due to superior judgment, and the obedience which we owe to the directions of our honourable employers.

6. As Sir John Lindsay had not quitted Fort St. George at the date of our last advices from thence, and as it was necessary to give every information to the gentlemen of that Presidency as to the commission with which Sir John Lindsay is vested, we transmitted to them a copy of the 20th paragraph of your letter per *Mansfield* relative to the present with which he is supposed to be charged to the King and the Nabob of Arcot.

7. Agreeably to your orders for discontinuing the expence formerly incurred by catching and feeding elephants intended for presents or parade we sent directions to the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad to put a stop to all charges of that nature. This has accordingly been done; but as we are convinced that these animals are the fittest if not the necessary means of conveying heavy baggage in this country, where the want of roads and of draft horses create inconveniences which are not felt by an European army, we deemed it necessary to reserve a certain number of those we had as a provision against future exigencies. Of the 50 which were in our possession we have directed that 16 shall be kept at the City, and 4 at Dacca, and that the remainder shall be offered to the Nabob Mabarek ul Dowlah or, in case of his refusal, to the Vizier.

8. We are extremely concerned that the presents which were made to His Excellency the Vizier by the deputation<sup>2</sup> have been so highly disapproved by you, our honourable masters, and particularly so as the reasons which then appeared indispensable and which were entered on our proceedings have not proved satisfactory to you. But whatever respect might be derived from the most prudent or the most powerful administration we conceived that some regard was to be paid to the customs of the country, which had regulated all presents, not by the services demanded or performed, but by the rank of the inferior party. We thought that withholding these presents would be a measure so unusual, and in this country would be deemed so inconsistent with the high station you fill in the Empire, that we apprehended it might be disgracefull to the public character you bear, and indeed contradictory to the office you possess; for we conceive that in an eastern government, the presents which are made by inferior officers to the sovereign or to his first minister are to be considered as fines imposed by an arbitrary government, which, as they constitute a large part of the revenues of an Asiatic prince, may be looked upon rather as tributes due than as gifts presented. Having been persuaded that we could not depart from this invariable custom without affronting the person whose goodwill we were so desirous of conciliating, without introducing an innovation contrary perhaps to the rights as well as to the prejudices of those people, nor without reflecting in their eyes a disgrace on that character which we thought should be most carefully preserved, having acted from this

conviction of the propriety if not of the necessity of the step we took, we hope, we need not enter into any farther justification of ourselves to remove the censure you have passed on this part of our conduct, which we have not incurred but by a misapprehension of what we conceived must be your sentiments on this subject, nor should we have taken the liberty of saying so much on the occasion but that we are convinced such may hereafter occur, and that we think it our duty to represent every consideration which may now or in future affect the interest or the honor of our employers. If like occasions should happen, every regard shall be paid by us to the advantage and to the dignity of the Company, and at the same time every attention to that frugality which you have been pleased to prescribe; and we shall continue to observe and to enforce upon all occasions the injunctions which you have so often laid on us your servants against receiving presents or admitting unnecessary visits.

9. Having acquainted you with every measure and opinion which has arisen in consequence of your orders to us by the *Mansfield*, we next proceed to an account of those events which have occurred since our last address. The situation of the frontier powers to the westward was then precarious and alarming, and we doubt what is yet to relate will but darken the prospect, that the danger if removed by a temporary delay will yet acquire additional force, and return with redoubled violence.

10. We informed you in our letters by the *Lapwing* and *Prince of Wales* of the progress of the Morattahs, of their having overrun the country of the Jauts, of the critical situation of the Rohillahs and Pattans, and of the alliance of the Morattahs with Nudjeb ul Dowlah.

11. We acquainted you also with our apprehensions of their designing new conquests, which appeared from their taking up their quarters during the rains in the country of the Jauts, as it was contrary to their invariable custom of returning home with the spoils of each campaign. They soon came to a settlement with the chiefs of the Jauts, who agreed to pay them 65 laaks at certain periods, besides an annual tribute of 15 laaks, or a cession of land to that value. Of the former sum the first payment was to have been made in ready money; but the Jauts have used every means of delaying this in hopes that the approaching season of action or other favorable circumstances might draw the enemy from their country.

12. It was indeed the general expectation in that part of India that the Vizier supported by your forces would join the Rohillahs and Patans, and drive the Morattahs from Indostan. It was probably on these hopes that the Rohillah Chief Hafez Rhamet and the Patan Achmet Cawn raised forces, and declared a resolution of defending their respective countries; but the Morattahs no sooner began to move, than they too began to negotiate and to shew an inclination to settle on like terms with the Jauts. The Patans particularly received the proposals made by the Morattahs for the payment of seven laaks immediately and a *chout* of the revenues in future. Hafez Rhamet had however applied to the Vizier, had represented the danger which threatened His Excellency and his allies the English, and requested his support as well as that of the King. But



though the Vizier appeared warm and even urgent on the occasion, no assistance appeared, and no treaty ensued, prevented possibly

L.R. No. 145.

by the enmity which has always subsisted between them, or probably by those suspicions which might naturally arise from the Vizier's cautious and doubtful conduct. The Rohillahs and Patans have however kept up the appearance of a resolution to defend themselves; and the former, on

L.R. No. 144.

the approach of the enemy, threw a bridge over the river to preserve their communication, detaching at the same time a part of their troops to check the progress of the enemy. But the Morattahs continued advancing without interruption. The main body under Ram Chunder Ganish proceeded in their march towards Furruckabad and Ettawah the villages near the former, the neighbourhood and even the suburbs of the city of Kanoje were laid waste by their detachments whilst another body have

L.R. No. 150.

crossed at Culpee and advanced within 20 coss of Corah.

Do. 146.

One feeble attempt has indeed been made to oppose them.

The Rohillahs and Patans sent a body of 10,000 men to cut off the party which had plundered the suburbs of Kanoje; but [when] they came up with the enemy, who were but a fifth of their number; they had not the courage even to make an attack but retired before them to Furruckabad.

13. In the midst of these advices we were surprized by an account of the death of Nudjeb ul Dowlah. We before informed you of his having joined the Morattahs; but this connection we considered as a temporary expedient to preserve his country from devastation, and we were persuaded that he would retire from or perhaps oppose these new friends whenever his personal apprehensions should be removed, or such an opposition formed as

L.R. No. 137 &  
140.

might assure him of support. This was the opinion also of the Vizier, and the Morattahs themselves shewed great jealousy of him: they considered his sickness as a pretence

and the chiefs themselves went to him to know the truth of his excuses. Immediately after this visit he sent his eldest son to the Morattah camp with 2,000 cavalry and proceed himself towards Nudjebgur<sup>3</sup>, a strong fortress

L.R. No. 140.

in which he kept his family and his treasures, and which was commanded by Calloo Cawn his 2nd son. But he died

on his way, leaving this his next heir Zabta Cawn in the hands of the Morattahs, and his treasures and fortress in the possession of another son.

14. This, having happened at a crisis so important to the frontier powers, appeared to us as an event of the most serious nature. The Morattahs, with a powerfull army, proceeding almost without the appearance of opposition, knowing that the family of the Mogul was in the hands of Nudjeb ul Dowlah, they themselves having his son in their possession and already but little distant from Delhi, we could hardly doubt that they would attempt and that they would succeed in the conquest of that capital, by which they must become masters of the King's family, as well as of the rich and extensive country possessed by Nudjeb ul Dowlah. What appeared to us to be the probable consequences of such an attempt, and what the temporary relief which it might afford, we have entered on our proceedings of the 23rd November.

L.R. No. 146 &  
150.

Our apprehensions have been since greatly confirmed by advices that Gaziodin Cawn, who had been sometime in the Morattah camp, had made large offers to them for being put in possession of Delhi, and prevailed on them to attempt setting on the



Najibud-Daulah



throne the *Shawzada*<sup>1</sup>, and also that although Tocojee and the eldest son of Nudjeb ul Dowlah would endeavor to counteract this scheme, the Chiefs Ramchudah and Sindiah had yet determined to adopt it. Besides this we are informed that one of the brothers of Nudjeb ul Dowlah has sworn to assist Gaziodin Cawn and is actually raising troops at Delhi for that purpose.

15. On the other hand the King had before amidst much anxiety to proceed on his intended expedition to the westward appeared however unwilling to enter upon it without your support, yet upon the death of Nudjeb ul Dowlah, excited at once by apprehension for the safety of his favorite son,

L.R. No. 141. by suspicion of the Vizier. and perhaps by despair of ever possessing his capital but by means of the Morattahs, and

irritated also against the English and his Vizier, of whose support he has been disappointed, he at once became deaf to all remonstrances, and declared his resolution to march to Delhi, with or without your assistance. Nor was he contented with this declaration. He immediately invested the son of Nudjeb ul Dowlah, who is in the Morattah camp, with the offices and honours held by his father, sent for him to the presence, and wrote to the Morattah

King's *Arzee* chiefs in such terms as plainly indicate his intention of  
5th Decr. throwing himself into their hands. Upon receiving this intelligence we repeated our former orders to Colonel

Gailliez, and the President has again wrote to His Majesty in the strongest terms, has urged every argument and has represented the danger and the disgrace which must ensue from so rash and desperate a measure. But we have little hopes of any effect from these remonstrances. The weakness of his temper, and the violence with which he seems to be actuated by these motives, will, we doubt, prompt him to rush forward on this wild and hazardous undertaking without having any regard even to his personal safety. He sometime since declared his intentions of sending Nudjif Cawn into the Corah province without the concurrence of the Vizier and much to his dissatisfaction, and also again solicited the march of the two Royal battalions at Allahabad, which we ordered Colonel Gailliez to evade a compliance with untill he was informed of the Vizier's approbation.

16. The behaviour of the Vizier during these transactions seems to have been calculated to give every satisfaction which he could do by profession or by negotiations without entering upon any measure which must absolutely declare his intentions or determine his conduct hereafter. We regard his steps with the utmost attention; unwilling to doubt his loyalty to the King or his sincerity to us, but mindfull of his temper and his former transactions, and not without suspicion of some of his late measures, nor without apprehension should those events, which may now possibly happen, present to him that personal danger or advantage which they must naturally have towards him; we mean the approach of the Morattah army, enriched by the conquest of Delhi strengthened by the levies and alliances which they may make there, and enforced by the presence of this or of some other King.

17. We before mentioned the advances which had been made by the

L.R. No. 140. Rohillah Chief towards an accommodation with the Vizier.

Sujah ul Dowlah received them with much apparent satisfaction, urged the conclusion of a treaty, and specified the number of troops, the commander etc., which he would send to their assistance. These troops



were actually put in motion, and began to form their camp on the frontier.

L.R. No. 144. At the same time he requested of Captain Harper to march with the 19th Battalion, wrote to dissuade the King from his expedition, and declared his entire reliance on your assistance. He has

L.R. No. 146. shewn a great desire to know how far this might be depended on, and has pressed this demand in strong terms, and has been remarkably anxious about every circumstance from whence

L.R. No. 140. he might learn our exact intentions. He has received from us every advice and every mark of friendship which we could give, with positive assurances of the support of your troops in case his own or the King's dominions should be attacked. This,

Arzee Pro. 5th Decemr. we presume, he has not had any doubt of; but though thus assured of the defence of his own country, he has not taken

a single step which can afford actual assistance to the Rohillaes and Patans; he has not marched a man beyond his frontiers, nor even yet broke off his treaty with the Morattahs. It was some time before he recalled Omrose Gosseine, whom we informed you in our last letter he had sent to the Morattah camp under pretence of buying horses; he is at length returned, but has left a vakeel with the Morattahs, and these people have also their agents at Fayzabad. As to the report of the designs of this embassy *vizt.*, to engage the Morattahs to put the Vizier in possession of the provinces of Corah and Allahabad, we are not willing to give credit to it, and still less so, as we suspect the quarter from whence this information came; but as to the commission with which he declared that he had sent this person to the Morattahs, we consider it as a mere pretence which the character and consequence alone of this envoy was a sufficient proof of. Whether he was sent only to discover the further designs of the Morattahs, whether to establish a secret alliance or neutrality, or whether, as some have supposed, to urge the destruction of the Rohillaes, a short time will probably discover. We are the more uneasy on this subject as it appears to us that the conduct of the Vizier has not indicated a disapprobation of the progress of the Morattahs, nor yet a regard to the interests of his Prince [*sic*], or the independent security of his own dominions. Had he paid attention to these he would not have suffered the Morattahs to crush the powers which bordered on his own and the King's countries when he knew it was fully in his power without our assistance to drive them home again. He would not have been so wanting in common policy as to suffer these people to establish themselves at his own doors if he considered them in their universal character that of the avowed enemies of Indostan, nor could he have avoided apprehensions for himself when he saw that their present attempt was something greater than a hasty incursion made solely for the sake of plunder. Of our assistance in case of need he could not doubt, as he knows how dangerous the Morattahs must be to the Company when so near at hand, and how absolutely we are bound by treaty and by interest to support himself and the King. It is indeed possible that his inactivity may in great measure have proceeded from a diffidence of his own troops, and from an unfriendly disposition towards the Rohillaes, as well as from a mean opinion of their valour and their firmness. But that he has not been active in the interests of you and your allies is sufficiently evident; that he is sincere and steady is, we apprehend, from these circumstances doubtfull.

18. With respect to the son and successor of Bulwand Sing the Vizier has,  
 L.R. No. 137. as we before informed you, acted agreeably to our desire.  
 Chaet Sing is now fully invested with the government to  
 the entire satisfaction of every one, and is considered by the Vizier as holding  
 L.R. No. 145. that country on the same terms as his father, the difference  
 in the revenues excepted. The whole are now settled at  
 Baneres rupees 22,48,449, which are 2,50,000 more than were paid by his  
 father. The Vizier expressed a desire of seeing the young  
 Pro. Rajah at the marriage of his eldest son Mirza Amany<sup>5</sup>  
 23rd. Novemr. The Rajah, sensible how much this mark of respect was  
 due from him at that time, promised to attend, but at length excused  
 L.R. No. 140. himself, perhaps by the advice of his father's councillors,  
 who had kept alive the family enmity.

19. The Vizier has declared his satisfaction at the return of the Nabob  
 Munerah ul Dowlah. We wish he may be sincere, and are anxious to hear  
 L.R. No. 145. of the Nabob's arrival at Allahabad, as we are not without  
 hopes that if he resumes his former influence, he may be  
 some check on the wild designs of his master.

20. There has been a report that the Shaw Abdallah is again marching  
 L.R. No. 144. towards Indostan, but we know not how far this may be  
 credited. As to Cossim Ally, we have heard nothing of  
 him since our last advices, nor have we received any further intelligence  
 regarding the French.

21. In our proceedings of the 7th November you will observe that a seizure  
 has been made of sundry persons and papers in Purnea, from whence there  
 is some suspicion of a correspondence between the Vizier and Nundcomar, and  
 of the former having endeavored to establish *dawkes* from Fayzabad hither.  
 We immediately took every measure in our power to examine into the truth  
 of this matter. We do not yet know the result of the  
 Pro. 7th Novr. enquiries which we ordered to be made, and must therefore  
 at present refer you to the papers themselves which are entered on our  
 proceedings.

22. The famine having entirely ceased and there being such an earnest  
 of a plentiful crop that there is already great quantity of grain in this place  
 and a prospect of much abundance in a short time, we have recommended it  
 to the Board to lay in a quantity of provisions in the new fort to answer any  
 emergencies, and this we hope will be done at a very cheap rate.

23. Before we close this address, permit us to add some reflections on  
 the present state of your affairs and on the difficulties we are under as to our  
 future conduct in case they should become worse. Our apprehensions that  
 they will arise chiefly from the probable attempts of the Morattahs, from the  
 now determined resolution of the King, and from our uncertainty as to the  
 part which the Vizier will act in case of disturbances at home. We see little  
 reason to doubt that the Rohillahs, Patans and Jauts will be involved in one  
 common ruin, and these form the only barrier, the dominions of the King and  
 Vizier excepted. The only opposition which the Morattahs will probably meet  
 with must be either from the Seiks or from the 2nd son of Nudjeb ul Dowlah ;  
 it is not certain from either of these quarters, and if certain, is not likely to

be of much weight. We have every cause to apprehend that they will have the present King at their head, or get possession of his son and set him up with his title. The mischiefs arising from the one event or the other would be important and numerous. It would give authority to every measure they may take, would draw new swarms of their countrymen to their standard, would enable them to possess countries and form alliances which at present they can have neither means nor pretence for obtaining, would in case of a rupture with the French give to our national enemies here and on the Coast all that sanction which our measures have hitherto had, and would justify the Vizier by law and perhaps by necessity in taking arms against us. The only certain means of preventing the great mischiefs, and of securing that barrier which is so necessary to the safety of your dominions, would be to march such a body of troops as might be sufficient to expell the Morattahs, to secure the safety and possession of the King's son, and to give the King what further satisfaction might be necessary. A former Government would, we presume, have immediately taken this step, notwithstanding the risk with which it would be attended in case of an attack by the French. But as to us you have been pleased to confine our measures in so positive a manner, to leave us ignorant of your intentions and instructions on these subjects communicated to the Commissioners, and to inhibit us so strongly against taking any measure of material consequence, that, except driven by absolute necessity, we must be held back by the hazard and the importance of such a step, and must keep within the line you have thought fit to prescribe untill immediate danger arrives at it. We have hitherto endeavored to preserve that awe or confidence which the powers of Hindostan have conceived from your former successes; but they must soon disregard our negotiations or professions when they see, as they already begin to do, the resolution you have taken, when they see us obliged, as we have been, to confine ourselves to the declaring our opinion or making general assurances. You have been pleased to declare who are the powers which you consider as the properest barrier to your dominions and have directed us to incline towards them; but this is so different from an order to assist them with your forces in the defence of their dominions that we cannot but be extremely doubtfull as to the conduct which you would have us to observe when they are in such a situation as they are at present. We flatter ourselves that a perusal of the packets directed to the Commissioners, which are expected from Madrass, may clear up this uncertainty; and we have determined to follow the system we have hitherto pursued unless we find other orders in them, or unless we should receive advice in the meantime of an actual invasion of the King's or Vizier's dominions, which we daily expect to do. In such a case we presume we must not remain inactive. But in our present situation, we proceed with uncertainty as to the intention of your orders, and with much apprehension of the consequences which may ensue from the conduct which you seem to have prescribed. Excuse, Honourable Sirs, the liberty we take in representing to you the prejudice which you must receive from any doubt or uncertainty in your commands, or from an inability in us to pursue measures which have become necessary from circumstances which you could not have foreseen, or of which your distance from the scene renders you unacquainted with the nature. Such have been the events which we have related. So many and various are the states of Indostan that invaders may attack whose power you have never apprehended, and their progress may



be such as we ourselves may be scarcely able to resist. On the other hand so artfull and so fluctuating are the councils of these princes that it is difficult even for us, who are at hand, to judge how they may act when new circumstances arise. To wait for your instructions is to leave everything to its course ; to hope that you might give us any rule which we might apply to every new and unforeseen occasion would be expecting what we doubt is almost impossible. Your late orders have taken away from us a power of acting as the present situation of your affairs might render most prudent. We think it our duty to obey them, but it is also our duty to lay before you the inconveniences which may arise from them. Inconveniences might also ensue from the possibility of our forming a wrong judgment, but they can never happen from want of attention or of anxiety for your interest. It is inseparable from our own while we are employed in your service. It is what we shall pursue with unremitting ardour ; but whenever we shall be so unhappy as to forfeit your confidence in our attachment we shall lose the power and the satisfaction of acting as it is necessary we should do in the character of.

Fort William,  
the 24th December 1770.  
(Per *Duke of Kingston*  
Duplicate per *Houghton*  
Triplicate per *Europa*)

Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(Signed) John Carrier / Samuel Middleton / Claud Russell / Charles Floyer.

#### *Postscript*

1. We have just now received advice that the Morattahs have taken Ettawah, and that two detachments from their army have entered the province of Corah and seized the town of Bittoor. We are informed that having at present dropt their intention of attempting the conquest of Delhi they have now laid claim to some parts of Sujah ul Dowlah's dominions, and have already advanced a body of 10,000 men. At the same time we learn that the attempts of the Seiks and an apprehension of the Morattahs have united the family of Nudjeb ul Dowlah, have excited them to a resolution of preserving their independence and of acknowledging the succession of Zabta Cawn. By this union of Nudjeb ul Dowlah's family any attempts upon Delhi are become more difficult and hazardous, so that the King is now in great measure easy with respect to his son and will probably lay aside all thoughts of his intended expedition.

2. As no doubt any longer remains of the further intentions of the Morattahs—they are actually advancing with a force with which they have almost entirely subdued those powers, which were each of them considered as formidable to your nearest allies, and are already invading those countries which border on these provinces—the event has now taken place which we before apprehended, and which, as we informed you in the foregoing part of this letter, would oblige us to depart from that system which we have hitherto pursued. The dominions of the King and Vizier which you have guaranteed to them by treaty are now attacked or laid claim to by your most formidable enemies. In obedience therefore to your repeated orders and in compliance with the stipulations of the said treaty, we have thought it necessary to give such assistance to your allies as may enable them to defend their respective



dominions, and we have deemed it most prudent to give this assistance without waiting for the requisitions which they must shortly make and which our repeated assurances have rendered less necessary. The least delay may increase the danger and whatever aid is become requisite the more immediately it is given the more effectual it will prove, and the more satisfactory to your allies. At the same time a vigorous conduct on our side will be a certain check on the weak and timid councils of the King and will best prevent the Vizier from taking any of those measures which might perhaps occur in a time of confusion to a man of his unsteady and enterprising temper.

3. But we did not form this resolution without paying that prior regard which is due to the immediate security of your own possessions. It is with particular satisfaction we acquaint you that together with the abovementioned intelligence, we received an extract of a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Call, which gives such an account of the French force at the Islands as shews any attack from that quarter to be more remote than we expected, and less formidable than we before apprehended. A copy of this extract we have the honor to send a number in the packet.

4. We have therefore unanimously resolved to recommend to the Governor and Council that the regiment, the company of artillery, and the two battalions of sepoy now quartered at Dinapore be directed to march immediately to the banks of the Caramanassa there to wait for further orders, and also that orders may be likewise sent for one of the two battalions of sepoy now laying at Buxar to reinforce the garrison of Allahabad, Lieutenant Colonel Gailliez being apprehensive of the safety of that fortress in case of a sudden attack during the absence of the two Royal battalions which have marched from thence at His Majesty's requisition.

5. We are fully persuaded that no danger will arise from the absence of this part of your forces. We are convinced that it will be sufficient to answer our intentions, and we trust they will be speedily accomplished; nor are we without hopes that this may happen from the apprehensions which the march of your troops will immediately excite, and for which reason they will be ordered to halt at the banks of the Caramanassa that they may not advance further unless future events may render it necessary.

Fort William,  
the 31st December 1770.

(Signed) J. Cartier / R. Becher /  
J. Alexander / S. Middleton.

17

PUBLIC LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1771

*Sundry matters relating to service, charterparty, etc. : resignation of Becher.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We dispatch this packet by the *Europa*, Captain Pelly, by whom you will receive triplicates of our General Letters, both in the Publick and Secret

Department which went home in original and duplicate by the *Kingston* and *Houghton*.

2. As the fair season is so far advanced, we have thought it more for your interest to send this ship away as soon as her lading is on board than to detain her for our public papers from the several offices, which will be dispatched by the *Verelst*, who is to sail very shortly after her.

3. The same reasons we hope will prove satisfactory to you for our not entering into a particular detail of affairs at this Presidency.

4. Mr. Becher finding that his constitution was too much affected by this climate to allow of a longer stay has this day resigned and has taken his passage on the *Europa*.

5. In justice to the character of this gentleman we must observe that the true interest of the Company has been with him the first object of his labors. And we should condemn ourselves did we omit offering this public testimony to his merit and integrity.

6. As a seat is vacant by his resignation we shall appoint Mr. Hare to succeed him as being the next on the list of servants, and Mr. Middleton has been appointed Chief of the Council of Revenues at Muxadabad in Mr. Becher's room.

7. Mr. Becher and his lady, Mr. Charles Coxe, who has also had our permission to resign, Mr. Charles Grant, and Mrs. Sampson have taken their passage on this ship.

8. The indemnification bonds for their servants are numbers in the packet.

9. The following persons whose time of service is expired are embarked as charterparty passengers vizt., Bethell Oliver, Benjamin Luck, John Fox, John Skinley, John Scot, Joseph Walker, James Weir, Richard Brown, William Driffeld, Henry Grierson, whose passage money the Captain is to receive at home.

10. We have registered a bulse of diamonds that is sent by this ship and belongs to Mr. Becher valued at £300 and marked and numbered according to the register which goes a number in the packet.

11. The cargo of this ship is invoiced at current rupees 10,00,500.

12. We have this day granted three sets of certificates to the following persons:—

1 set dated 31st December 1770 to Captain Richd. Morrison, Commander of the ship <i>Duke of Kingston</i> , payable to himself for . . . . .	21,631-12-6.
1 set dated 16th January 1771 to Captain Thos. Compton, Commander of the ship <i>Verelst</i> , payable to himself for	42,207-13-0.
1 set dated 16th January 1771 to Captain Henry Hinde Pelly, Commander of the ship <i>Europa</i> payable to himself for	43,000-10-3.

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Current rupees 1,06,840- 3-9.

Fort William,  
15th January 1771.  
(Per *Europa*  
Duplicate per *Verelst*)

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithfull servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier etc.

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1771

*Maratha invasion of Rohilkhand—weakness of the Rohillas and their attempts to treat with the enemy—dubious conduct of the Vazir—measures taken to meet the Maratha menace : Barker permitted to cross the Karamnasa if necessary to protect the dominions of the King and the Vazir.*

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. In a postscript to our letter of the 24th December, a triplicate of which we have now the honor to enclose, we informed you of the further progress of the Morattahs, of their having laid aside their intentions of attempting the conquest of Delhi, and of their having already attacked the dominions of His Majesty.

2. Our subsequent advices have confirmed the intelligence we before received. The detachments which had entered the Corah province, though  
 L.R. No. 1 & 7. they retired from that country on the approach of the *Fouzdar's* troops, have returned however a second time, and by our last accounts were in possession of the town and country of Bittoor. One division of their main army has been employed in the conquest of Ettawah and in escorting Runjeat Singh, brother to Nowal Sing<sup>1</sup>, Chief of the Jauts, whose cause served them for a pretext to invade the country of the Jauts, and  
 L.R. No. 157 & 5. for whom they have demanded of Nowal Sing the cession of districts yielding 20 laaks of rupees a year. The other division of the Morattah army under the command of Tokojee have marched towards Furruckabad, where the Rohillahs and Pattans have collected their whole force.

3. The chiefs of these people, who have upon every occasion shewn the greatest apprehension and dread of the enemy, have renewed their former  
 L.R. No. 7 & 8. endeavors to come to an accomodation. But the Morattahs have demanded the possession of all the countries between the rivers which they held before their defeat at Panniput, and have also required payment of all the revenues which have been collected since that time. The latter demand, it is supposed, the Rohillahs are not in a condition to satisfy. The Morattahs have indeed peremptorily insisted on a full compliance ; and we are in daily expectation of hearing that they have either receded from their claim to the former revenues and obtained possession of those districts by treaty, or that a battle has ensued and rendered them masters of the whole country. All accounts agree that the troops of Hafez Rhamet and Achmet Cawn are so greatly intimidated by the success of the enemy that scarce any resistance is expected from them, whilst on the other hand they are become so discontented and mutinous that they have insulted and

even pelted their chiefs. Such are the troops which are to defend the Rohillah country. We consider the fall of Furruckabad as inevitable and shall then see the Morattahs in possession of that extensive country to which the dominions of the King and Vizier are entirely open.

4. We have already informed Your Honours in our last letter that the King was become more easy upon the Union of Nudjeb ul Dowlah's family, and that we hoped he had laid aside his intended expedition to Delhi. We have heard nothing more on this subject, and as Munere ul Dowlah is now returned to the presence and has met with a very favorable reception we hope that his influence will keep His Majesty firm to his engagements.

5. We should be very glad if we could give you the same favorable account of the conduct of the Vizier, but our late advices have rather increased than removed our apprehensions. We have already represented to you the ambiguity of his conduct. He has indeed marched a body of forces under the command of his third son towards Cawnpore, has declared that these shall be reinforced by all the troops which he can spare from the collections, and has ordered them to dislodge the enemy from the towns which they occupied in the province of Corah. He has also desired that his own troops might be joined to Captain Harper's battalion, which has accordingly marched under the command of Lieutenant Conway, it being expedient that Captain Harper himself should remain with the Vizier. In conformity with these measures he has remonstrated against our resolution confining ourselves to the stipulations of the treaty, and urged the necessity of your assistance to oblige the enemy to relinquish their late conquests. But, on the other hand, he has actually sent another envoy to the Morattah camp, and is expected to hold a conference with their chiefs, a measure which can be dictated only by intentions directly contrary to his engagements with you. Captain Harper, who has hitherto entertained a favourable opinion of the Vizier, has lately informed us that he is become greatly apprehensive as to the Nabob's conduct; that there is now a great alteration in the Vizier's deportment: and that instead of his former chearfulness his mind seems to be full of anxiety and laboring with some important matter. We have ever been extremely unwilling to harbor suspicions of His Excellency, or to alarm you with a representation of dangers drawn only from surmise or conjecture: but in the present case, when we regard the temper of the man, and compare this extraordinary alteration in his behavior with his former ambiguous conduct, and with the correspondence which he now carries on with the enemy, we can no longer retain our former confidence, nor be without the most serious apprehensions. Could we rely upon his sincerity, we should be less concerned at the progress of the Morattahs, as it would perhaps be in our power to re-establish the Rohillahs and Jauts, whenever the necessity of affairs or further instructions from Your Honors should justify us in such a measure. But if these formidable invaders, after conquering the powers which formed the principal barrier and establishing themselves in these countries, should be abetted and supported by the Vizier, it would require all our force and all our vigilance to resist their united efforts. Though we are uncertain whether or not this may happen, we have thought it necessary to put ourselves upon our guard, and to shew such resolution and activity as may perhaps remove the



dangers we apprehend, or at least enable us to oppose them on their first appearance.

6. Upon the first attack made on the King's dominions we resolved, in compliance with the treaty and in obedience to your positive orders, to shew our readiness to support your allies by marching such a body of troops as might be sufficient to repel the Morattahs and be in readiness to act in any other manner which might be found necessary. Our motives for this resolution and our opinion of the state of affairs to the westward are fully explained to Your Honors in our last letter; we also referred them together with our proceedings to the Governor and Council, who having given their full assent to the measures we proposed, we directed the remaining part of the Third Brigade stationed at Dinapore to march to the Caramanassa, there to wait for further orders. We also directed one battalion of sepoy's quartered at Buxar to reinforce the garrison of Allahabad; and we desired General Barker to give such orders to the troops without the provinces as might best conduce to the safety of His Majesty's person and the defence of the dominions, which you have guaranteed to your allies. As this march of your troops may possibly induce the Morattahs to make incursions on the western borders of Bahar, we have ordered the Chief of Patna to procure every intelligence from that quarter, and have directed him, in case he should receive any such advices, to collect into one body the *pergunnah* battalions<sup>2</sup> in such manner as may best conduce to the safety of that province.

7. These were the measures which we proposed taking at the time of our last dispatch. But the advices we have since received, particularly the continual progress and the declared intentions of the Morattahs, and the further doubts which have arisen with regard to the Vizier, have created a necessity of proceeding still farther. We have therefore made a second reference to the Board, who have unanimously concurred in opinion with us, and who have without exception of a single member been equally alarmed at the present situation of affairs, and equally convinced of the necessity of taking the steps which we proposed to them. We have accordingly written to Sir Robert Barker, directing him to cross the Caramanassa whenever he shall receive such advices as may render this measure necessary. The distance of the scene of action, the rapid conquests of the enemy, and our uncertainty as to the part which the Vizier may take have made it requisite to give these powers to the General; but we have at the same time informed him that none of your troops are by any means to be employed beyond the dominions of the King and Vizier. We have also represented to him in the fullest light the present state of your finances, and our resolution not to engage in war, unless it shall become absolutely necessary for the defence of your own possessions or those of your allies. We have also recommended to him in the strongest manner, in case he enters upon action, to proceed with the utmost caution and with the utmost oeconomy. We have moreover ordered the troops quartered at Monghyr to march to Patna and have directed the three battalions of sepoy's which constitute the remainder of the First Brigade and which are now cantoned near Chandernagore to proceed to Monghyr in order to provide for the security of that place, as affairs seem now to be near a crisis.

8. We expect in our next dispatch to give you more certain accounts

than we have yet been able to do. We shall strictly confine ourselves within the limits you have prescribed, shall avoid as long as possible every measure which may involve you in new expences, and shall proceed with caution and steadiness, should we be no longer able to remain inactive.

Fort William,  
the 18th January 1771.  
(Per *Europa*  
Duplicate per *Verelst*  
Triplicate per *Worcester*)

We are with the utmost respect,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
John Cartier / James Alexander /  
Samuel Middleton.

19

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1771

*Shipping and navigation: proposal to fix a floating light at the fairway of the river; information about the snow Britannia—trade and investment: indents for stores required from Europe; difficulties experienced in providing silk investment by employing dadni merchants; dangers involved in the Company obtaining a monopoly of the silk trade; efforts to secure bills or specie for Bombay Government—fortifications and buildings: progress in Berhampore and Dinapore Cantonments; improvements in the mode of entering into contracts; explanations in respect of the purchase of a hospital building—difficulties in collecting arrears of revenue—sundry matters relating to service, accounts, etc.—postscript: payment of certain bills in respect of the Navy Donation presented by the French deferred to gain certain trade advantages; survey of the mouth of the Ganges and of certain parts of the Bay of Bengal.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have already addressed you under date the 8th September, 1st October, 1st November, 12 December 1770 and 15th January 1771.

2. We have been so particular in our advices of this season that we have nothing left to add in this letter under the established heads. We shall however enter on those subjects that have not already been discussed, or that have happened since our last advices and

### *First, of Shipping*

3. After we had closed our last packet we received a letter from Captain Maitland dated Malacca 21st November 1770 informing us of the *Bute* and *Stafford* having lost their passage to China, inclosing two letters addressed to your Secretary, which were sent to him under the care of Captain Pelly.

Consn. Aug. 2.

4. The Master Attendant by our directions made the annual survey of the river, an exact report of which we have entered in our Consultations of the 2nd of August last.

5. A representation was made to us by the Master Attendant of the great benefit that would accrue to our navigation from the fixing of a floating light at the fairway by which the accidents that so often happen to ships in their passage into or out of the mouth of this dangerous river notwithstanding the utmost care would be in a great measure removed; and he laid before us a section of the vessel he proposed building as an estimate of the expence

amounting to rupees 19,795. As such a measure promised  
 Consn. May 22. to be of publick utility by encouraging and promoting the trade of this port we issued orders for carrying it into execution; and when it is finished we intend to adopt a plan for reimbursing the expence by levying a duty on all ships that pass in or out in proportion to their size.

6. As the crazy condition of most of the pilot sloops and the total unfitness of three of them reduced our marine to distress we were under the

necessity of purchasing two Surat built vessels and converting  
 Consn. June 5. them into pilot sloops. They were of very proper dimensions, and their whole cost including the alterations did not equal the cost of those built at Bombay which have both been sent round to this Presidency.

7. Captain Lewin has made a demand on us on behalf of his owners for the subsistence of the recruits on board his ship 14 days after his arrival at Ingelee and provisions for their passage from thence to Calcutta; also for the expence of moving the ship from Ingelee to Culpee.

8. As this was an unusual as well as an unreasonable charge we did not  
 Consn. [...] Jany. think proper to comply with it.

9. Captain Lewis, who was employed in bringing the *Triton* schooner round from Bombay, being detained here by the monsoon, and having

applied to be put upon a footing with the commanders  
 Consn. Octr. 22. of the pilot sloops in our service during his stay, we complied with his request in order to enable him to subsist.

10. We sent to the Fort Marlbro Presidency in the snow *Albion* part of the stores they had indented for; but in a gale of wind  
 Consn. April 12. in the Bay the Captain was obliged to throw the gunnies overboard. As she put into Chittagong to be refitted, we ordered the gunnies

to be replaced from that factory; the remainder of the  
 Consn. June 5. stores we have laden on the *Dolphin* and *Ruby*, the latter of which is on the point of sailing from this place.

11. As we were under apprehensions that the *Albion* would take a considerable time in refitting and that the Fort Marlbro Presidency might be in

distress before she could arrive, we took the precaution of  
 Consn. June 5. desiring the gentlemen of Fort St. George to supply these stores by the first opportunity they might have, and indeed we have not yet received any advices of the departure of the *Albion* from Chittagong.

12. By the *Lapwing* we had the honor to inform you that Mr. Dundas had sent the snow *Brittania* to Bengal laden with plank and consigned to us.

and that we had left her in his agent Mr. Wedderburn's hands until he could gain some information from Dundas of his intentions or those of the King of Pegu in sending this snow to us. We have since received a letter addressed by Dundas to Mr. Wedderburn informing him that she was sent by order of the King to discharge Mr. Dolbin's demand, Captain Justice having applied to the King for payment of that money when he was at Pegu; that as Captain Justice had left no instructions with his attorneys at Rangoon in regard to this vessel the last season had passed before he could come to any determination about her; that the expence of getting a confirmation of this account under the King's seal was too expensive for him to think of unless he was assured that we would reimburse him and that if we declined taking the snow Mr. Wedderburn was to sell her cargo to defray the expence she had incurred.

13. On referring to Captain Justice for an explanation, he informed us that he had applied to the King for the discharge of Dolbin's debt, who ordered the *Brittania* with a cargo of timber and plank to be delivered to him for that purpose: that on his return to Rangoon from Ava and application to the King's officer he offered to deliver him the vessel as she was, but refused fitting her out or lading her; that Dundas soon after his departure sent her to sea, but she was obliged to return through the severity of the season; that he then sold part of her cargo on his own account: that on Justice's return to Pegu he was applied to by Dundas for the *Brittania's* sailing orders, which he refused as he had no directions concerning her from us, nor did he think it for the Company's interest to meddle with her; and that Dundas had since sent her on a voyage on his own account.

14. As by this narrative it appeared that Dundas had employed the vessel for his own benefit, and as the King had given no orders concerning her, or made any mention of her to Captain Justice in his second embassy to Pegu, we have thought it most prudent to leave her in the hands of Mr. Wedderburn as Mr. Dundas's agent.

15. We had also a bill for 12,000 rupees tendered to us by Mr. Wedderburn drawn on us in his favor by Dundas on account of disbursements for the *St. Helena*, and we at the same time received a letter from Dundas informing us of his getting her in readiness to sail for this port.

16. We have determined to wait the arrival of the *St. Helena*, when we shall be better able to judge whether it will be most eligible to receive her and make ourselves responsible for the amount of the draft, or leave her in the hands of Mr. Dundas and his agents.

17. In obedience to your orders for seperating the book packet from the others we have in all our dispatches of this season put our addresses to you together with their accompanying papers into a small box by themselves, which is distinguished by having Company's packet written at the beginning of the direction; and we have inserted a paragraph in each of the captain's sailing orders directing him to be careful in sending that box by an express to you from the first port he may touch at in England.

18. We send a number in the packet an account of the arrival and departure of the Europe ships at and from this Presidency during the season as also



of those we have received intelligence of from the other Presidencies in India and from China.

19. The Fort St. George Presidency has informed us of the arrival of the *Morse* at the Brasils<sup>1</sup> in August last, and of the Captain's resolution to proceed to the Cape least he should arrive in India before the monsoon is settled. We have received no advices of her having passed the Cape. We fear the season will be over before she arrives. However our utmost efforts shall not be wanting to lade and dispatch her, should there be any probability at the time of her arrival that she will save her homeward passage.

20. We have been again applied to by the Council at China for a supply of silver for the use of their investment; but the reasons that have induced us for some years past to discontinue our supplies still remain in force. They inform us that the *Bute*, *Earl of Elgin*, *British King* and *Stafford* have lost their passage, but should any of them arrive by the *Pitt's* passage, that they shall be able to fill them and have a surplus remaining. They also mention their having dispatched the *Earl of Middlesex* on the 20th November.

Consn.  
Jany. 31, 1771.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

21. You will receive in this packet the indents from our several storekeepers, which we request may be fully complied with.

22. The Naval Storekeeper has delivered to us a receipt signed by the Purser of the *Houghton* for an anchor with which that ship was supplied at Ingelee and as Captain Smith did not pay for it or leave any orders concerning it we send the receipt a number in the packet, together with the Naval Storekeeper's bill for the amount, being C. Rs. 1,083-14-0, that it may be settled with the owners of the ship.

Consn. Jany. 17.

23. The military indents have been usually formed under the inspection of the Commander in Chief; and as he has been particularly careful in drawing out and correcting the one we now inclose we hope it will be found free from any of the errors that you have pointed out in those of the last season.

*Thirdly, of investment*

24. We shall in conformity to your commands by the *Mansfield* pay strict attention to the provision of those goods that by the list of investment appear to answer best.

25. Your directions in the 41st and 42nd paragraphs of the above letter we have transmitted to Cossimbuzar with our instructions to them to be careful in paying obedience thereto.

26. After the exposition of the manner of conducting the silk trade and the arguments used by Mr. Verelst for carrying it on by *dadney* merchants in future, you will have found by our advices that we had determined on contracting for the silk investment at Cossimbuzar as the mode least injurious to the fair trader and least oppressive to the *chassars*. The terms proposed by the merchants though high were at last accepted, and they have in general complied with their engagements to the satisfaction of the Cossimbuzar factory. The same reasons operated with us for advertising for proposals for

the present year ; but the terms offered are so extravagantly high that we have acquainted the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar, unless they could be brought within reasonable bounds we shall revert to the former mode of provision by *gomastahs*. Although we could wish to make no change until we are favoured with your answer to what has last year been said on this subject, yet we do not think the great enhancement of the price will be counterballanced by the advantages resulting to the country ; and therefore unless we can bring both upon a par we shall unavoidably be obliged to have recourse to *gomastahs* until the gentlemen sent out by you for the filature have made such progress in the instruction of the natives as to render it necessary for us to provide the cocoons only.

27. We informed you in our letter of the 12th December that we had declined complying with Mr. Wiss's proposal of erecting upper roomed buildings for the purpose of winding silk as the estimate for each building amounted to 20,000 rupees, and that we had recommended to him the trial of temporary buildings until it was seen whether he could bring his scheme to answer.

28. As he still remains of opinion that these buildings are necessary and has since represented that it is proper one at least should be erected at Comercolly to contain 16 furnaces and which will amount only to 5,500 rupees, we have ordered the Cossimbuzar factory to erect one, but to be careful not to exceed the sum Mr. Wiss has fixed it at.

29. Your orders for distinguishing the different sorts of saltpetre we sent to the Patna factory. They inform us that they cannot comply with these orders in regard to the saltpetre of this season as it is already dispatched, but that they will carefully attend to them in future.

30. A literal compliance with your orders in the 47th paragraph of the General Letter per *Mansfield*<sup>2</sup>, it is humbly apprehended, would be ruinous to the country in effectually putting a stop to the silk trade, and thereby to the importation of silver which annually comes into these provinces for the provision of raw silk. Nor would it, we conceive, be agreeable to your intentions were you acquainted with the consequences which must result from a general prohibition in this branch of trade no more than to your interest as the annual produce of this article is beyond the ability of the treasury to purchase ; unless private traders take off the surplus, the culture of mulberrys must be neglected and the trade entirely decay to the manifest injury of the revenue. It is directed that the silk trade at the Company's *aurungs* shall be entirely confined to them and no private trader suffered to provide any. But as there is no place where any considerable quantity of silk is produced where the Company's investment is not carried on, these directions in fact exclude private traders everywhere and the whole of the silk must fall into the Company's hands. Country merchants will have no further encouragement to resort from inland parts with their monies, which have hitherto served to keep up the reduced currency. The circulation of trade with the Corromandel and Malabar Coasts which take off considerable quantities will be at an end, and the manufacturer's industry will no longer be kept alive by competition, while the merchants in these provinces are deprived of one of the principal sources of a subsistence. These are the evils to be apprehended and it is our duty to represent them. We shall however in compliance with your orders

so far inforce your regulations as may be necessary to provide as large a quantity as our finances will admit ; and in the meantime we hope the light thrown on this branch will produce some alterations in your orders more favorable to the manufacturer, the trader, and the country in general.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India, the country government  
and European powers*

31. As we are still in hopes of compleating the sum required by the Bombay Presidency by remittances from hence in bills, we have not hitherto complied with their request for three lacks of rupees in specie ; but should we not be able to get bills to this amount, we will in the month of March ensuing send the remainder in specie to Tillicherry as they have desired.

32. We shall be particular in entering on our proceedings any paper that may be sent us by the foreign nations, and should now have sent you those containing the complaints from the Dutch had not these complaints been long since amicably adjusted.

*Fifthly, of fortifications, buildings and revenues*

33. The town goal [*sic*] being greatly out of repair in so much as to endanger the lives of the prisoners through want of defences  
Cons. Feb. 26. against the inclemencies of the weather, we ordered a survey to be taken and the necessary repairs to be made as well as some additions, the present goal not being large enough for the prisoners, who, we are concerned to remark are daily increasing.

34. The buildings of the Chittagong factory having long been a heavy expence to the Company, we directed that the new plan executing at that  
May 1st. factory should be circumscribed, as by the report of Mr. Reed, the late Chief, it was more extensive than was requisite ; and we likewise directed that the present straw buildings, from the daily repairs of which the principal part of the expence arose, should incur no further charge, nor should any new ones be made, as the buildings erecting and already compleated would be sufficient for every purpose of the factory.

35. Mr. Reed delivered in some remarks on the Chittagong province which he had collected from some years experience of that country, wherein  
May 22. he pointed out the grievance occasioned by an exclusive *sunnaud* having been granted to the Joynagur Zemindar of all the waste lands, by which means all persons who undertook the clearance and cultivation of any part of them instead of holding such part in their own right were obliged to become his *talookdars*. And as this was a curb on their industry and it was feared had tended to impede the progress of cultivation and to hinder the increase of the revenues, we immediately directed the Collector General to make a minute enquiry into the nature of the *sunnaud*, and should he find that it had been productive in any degree of those evils, to resume the grant and adopt such measures as might promise to be most conducive to the increase of cultivation.

36. Mr. Wilkins's report, in consequence of the Collector General's reference to him being entered on our Consultations, will inform you that he has



not yet been able to gain a satisfactory knowledge of this affair, but that we may expect very shortly a particular account of the lands that have been cleared away and cultivated and how far this useful measure has been affected by the grant to the Joynagur Zemindar.

37. Sir Robert Barker having recommended the erection of a wall round the cantonments at Burrampore to prevent the Europeans eloping from the cantonments and getting intoxicated, or from procuring spirituous liquors to be brought to them, which through want of a wall was constantly the case, as they found means in so large a circuit of ground to elude the utmost vigilance of the centries, we directed it to be carried into execution by Major Watson under the orders of the Chief and Council of Cossimbuzar, whom we enjoined to be as saving as possible in the execution of it. But as during the dry season by the buildings at the cantonments and the finishing of the new fort our expences became very heavy, we found it necessary to give orders for delaying it until the next season, when we hope the charge of buildings and fortifications will be lighter.

38. We expect to send you by the next ship a satisfactory account from Major Watson of the progress that has been made during the last year on the cantonments of Burrampore and Dinapore and of what remains to be finished.

39. We have entered into a contract with Messrs. Hancock and Lacam for three lacks of maunds of *chunam* to be provided by the 1st March 1772 at the rate of 50 rupees per 100 maund for that made within the 24 Pargunnahs, and 75 for such as shall be collected in the Sunderbunds. Though these terms are higher than those of any former contracts, yet when it is considered that these gentlemen do not desire any advances of money, that they bind themselves to deliver us all the *chunam* they may make, and that they are men of credit, which has not always hitherto been the case, that they agree to make good to us the advanced price at which we may be obliged to purchase *chunam* should they fail in the performance of their contract, and that the method they propose of employing sloops at the Sunderbunds promises to remove the difficulty other contractors have laboured under most part of the year, we hope that it will in the end prove an advantageous contract to the Company.

40. However we directed the Committee of Works to secure to the former *chunam* contractors their just balances before they executed the exclusive grant for Hancock and Lacam's making *chunam* in those districts.

41. Except the above no contracts have been entered into the last season before publick notice had been given by the Committee of Works that they would accept of proposals and sufficient time had been allowed for the delivery of them.

42. We are sensible of the justness of your remarks on the subject of failures in contracts. We can only observe on this occasion that agreeable to the publications issued, the lowest offers have been accepted, and it has too often happened that competition has induced such as offered to make their proposals at an under rate, which with other circumstances rendered a rigid demand of the penalties oftentimes a hardship; but we shall henceforth



be careful in extending this indulgence only where necessity absolutely obliges us.

43. In our letter of the 25 January 1770 by the *Grafton* we informed you that on account of the famine which prevailed throughout the country we had made a remission to the farmers in the Burdwan province of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 lacks of rupees on condition that they should discharge it at certain periods with the rents of the next year.

44. But the Collector General has represented to us that the great increase of the famine since that period has been the cause of such a mortality and desertion amongst the ryotts as to deprive the farmers of a possibility of recovering the rents that had been allowed to run in arrear and that therefore if some reduction of the sum remitted was not made many of the farmers would be ruined. On a scrutiny made by Mr. Stewart it appeared that the farmers had lost by the death or desertions of the ryotts 82,180 rupees of the above 3 lacks. As it was not expected when this temporary remission was allowed that the famine would have been so fatal, and as it appeared but equitable that the farmer should be relieved from the payment of sums which they could not collect from the ryotts, we authorized the Collector General to allow the farmers the sum above specified should it be found on a further scrutiny that it could not with justice be reduced.

45. The Collector General's annual reports of the Calcutta *purgunnahs*, Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong provinces with the accounts for the year ending 30 April last (which are too voluminous to be entered in the body of the Consultations, and therefore make a separate book in the packet) will exhibit such a clear view of the state of the collections of the Company's own lands that we beg leave to be referred to them and hope they will prove satisfactory to you. After this dispatch we shall take into consideration the different points that require our orders and in general make such further remarks as may occur to be necessary.

46. The difference which you have pointed out in the abstracts of the Chittagong treasury accounts annexed to Mr. Becher's letter of the 8th March 1769 has been cleared up by Mr. Russell, the present Collector General, it arising from a neglect in drawing out No. 22 in *dussmassa* rupees without the usual *batta* of 10 per cent, which being added will make it correspond exactly with the abstract No. 23.

47. In answer to your remarks on the purchase of the new hospital we are to assure you that the price paid for it was not above its value; and not until it had been carefully examined and estimated, we were urged to this purchase by the distress we were in for a proper place to accommodate the sick, as the old hospital had been blown down and we were obliged to remove them for a time to the barracks in the new fort. We at first designed to erect an hospital on the other side of the river, but for reasons which appear on our Consultations this design was laid aside; and as this house was large and roomy, as it stood on a dry elevated spot of ground, as it was removed at a distance from the town, which was a circumstance favourable both to the sick and to the inhabitants of Calcutta, as it was ready to our hands and the building one would take up so much time at a period when the barracks were wanted for part of the troops, we thought it better to purchase it than to undertake the

building of one, which with the upper rooms as this had and of the dimensions requisite for the reception of the sick would have cost us a greater sum, and in the meantime we must have hired a house to convert into a temporary hospital. We shall however be attentive to your commands in any future purchases.

48. We have ever aimed at oeconomy in the disbursements of this Presidency, and have paid the utmost attention to the preventing of the growing charges, which notwithstanding our endeavours still accumulate. This has been in a great measure owing to the progress made on the fortifications, which has occasioned vast increase of expence, the erection of the forts at Budge Budge, and the cantonments. All which burthens your treasury will be eased of, as we hope that the next season will behold nearly the completion of the whole.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenanted servants and accounts*

49. The Military Storekeeper having addressed us on the great irregularity prevailing in the form of the accounts of his office and illustrated it by remarks  
 Jany. 11, 1770. on the several heads, to rectify which he recommended an adjustment by carrying to profit and loss the surplus and deficiencies at the close of the books for 1769, which he had kept open for that purpose, we approved of so necessary a measure, and also of a new form of keeping his office journal, which we have directed to be observed in future.

50. The Storekeeper of the New Works, on laying before us his books ballanced to April last, represented to us the difference that was found on  
 Augt. 14. a scrutiny to be between the ballance of stores as they appeared in the accounts of his office and the real ballance remaining, which he accounted for at full in his letter entered on our proceedings.

51. As it appeared that before Mr. Barwell's taking charge of that office no regular sets of accounts had been kept, nor any examination into the real ballance had been made till now, as for the space of 10 years during which this difference had arisen, it was likely that many indents might have been lost by the removal of the papers, and as the causes of this deficiency assigned by Mr. Jekyll were the most probable ones, we agreed that the neat ballance should be brought to account and the difference be placed under the head of unaccounted ballances, and that the sums which he had represented as due from merchants, either dead or not to be found, should remain on ballance till your determination, which we now request, should be known.

52. The Committee of Works having recommended to us the appointment of a gentleman to the post of Accomptant to that Committee principally  
 Mar. 5. for the purpose of bringing up, of digesting into proper order, and of keeping the Chief Engineer's books, we appointed Mr. Alexander Higginson with a salary of Rs. 150 per mensem.

53. The Military Paymaster General having recommended Mr. Keighly to our notice for his application and diligence in that office, we agreed to  
 Mar. 20. restore him to his former rank as his close attention to business since his degradation had attoned for his former neglect.

54. Messrs. Dean and Bowey, the Master Attendant's Deputies, having represented the length of their services, and the small amount of their allowances, which was greatly inadequate to their unavoidable  
Apl. 24. expences, we agreed to grant each of them an additional monthly allowance of 150 Rs. as house rent, as we were sensible of the justness of their claims, and had a regard to their long and faithful services.

55. In consequence of a representation from the Chief Engineer, Captain Lockard Russell, who was here on leave from the Bombay Presidency, has been detained in the service of the fortifications untill they are compleated, unless the gentlemen of Bombay, whom we have written to on the subject, shall in the meantime represent that his services are necessary there.

56. We observe in your letter per *Houghton* that you positively order the Reverend Mr. Yates, Chaplain of this Presidency, to be sent home to Europe. We must again beg leave to inform you that an intire inability in the late Reverend Mr. Parry to perform the duties of his function first compelled us to the necessity of detaining Mr. Yates in this country ; and the death of the Reverend Mr. Pennington, and the great probability of the loss of the Reverend Mr. Hurst on the *Aurora*, events which could not be known on the sailing of the *Houghton*, will, we hope, be reasons sufficiently strong to justify us in suspending the execution of the above order, which could not be complied with but by putting the settlement to very evident inconveniences in not having chaplains sufficient to perform the various duties which so enlarged a colony requires.

57. The same reasons have induced us to detain the Reverend Mr. Baines, who came here on leave of absence from Fort Marlbro, untill your pleasure should be known.

58. Agreeable to your commands we shall take every necessary precaution to prevent any person under our protection from trading with the French, and we have given the most public information to this purport agreeable to the spirit of your commands.

59. We shall in obedience to your commands give every encouragement to the junior servants to obtain knowledge of the Moorish and Gentoo languages.

60. We should have attended to your orders concerning Mr. St. Lubin had he been in this settlement, but we are informed that he went to Europe last year from Fort St. George.

61. Your regulations about the inspection and report of the draught and carriage bullocks have been issued in general orders, and shall be attended to.

62. Care will be taken to avoid any increase of the military on this establishment. The list of field officers has within this twelve months been greatly reduced by deaths and resignations, and none shall in future be made until the number is decreased to the limited establishment.

63. Lieutenant Colonel Leslie thinking himself aggrieved has resigned the service, and embarks on the *Worcester*. He grounds his complaints on our not having allowed him to rank according to an agreement he entered

into with the Honorable Company before his departure from England. As we have never received information of any such agreement except from himself, we, according to the tenor of your orders, gave him rank next to those in commission on his arrival; and being unable to settle it in any other manner we must refer it to your determination.

64. We cannot furnish you with more information of the claims made by Lawrence Orman, Daniel Le Doux and Gerret du Friese than what has already been transmitted you on our Consultations. They went to England without our knowledge; and we have only to remark that Lawrence Orman by his omitting in his petition the offer made him by the Council, of paying his demand if he could swear to the truth of it, appears to have flattered himself with a notion that you were ignorant of this circumstance, and that he could therefore have better success in his application to you than he had in Bengal.

65. We have desired Mr. Kelsall to use his endeavors in getting Mr. Lankheet's information upon oath, touching Mr. Bolts clandestine trade with Mr. Vernet, which shall be transmitted to you.

66. In your appointment of Mr. Charles Fleetwood you order that he take rank next below Mr. Samuel Lewis. As you have pointed out so particularly the rank he is to have in the list of your servants, which we observe was not done in the appointment of the late Mr. Maddison, we request to be informed whether he is to preserve that rank in his rise by serving only three years in the service, or whether he is to serve 5 years as factor, and consequently give place to those writers who being of three years' standing will on commencing factors come between him and Mr. Lewis.

67. The President has desired General Barker to give us his sentiments on a plan for the relief of the wounded and disabled officers and soldiers, and by the latter ship of this season we hope to transmit to you such a plan as may appear to the General and to us the most likely to effect that purpose. In the meantime we send a number in the packet a list of those who have been either set down by us or recommended by the other Presidencies as deserving of this charitable bounty.

68. We have lost since the beginning of the last year the following covenanted servants.

Factors:—

John Hutchinson  
Charles Hawkins  
Robt. Wilmot  
Charles Ingram  
William H. Coxe.

Writers:—

Thos. Corsley Cooke  
Robt. Jacomb  
Adam Dawson  
Thomas Rooke  
Nath. Price  
John Purling.

69. And the following ones have had our permission to resign the service and proceed to Europe: Jeffery Wilkins, factor, writers: Charles Coxe, Richd. Gosling, Peter du Cane.



*Eighthly, of Charter*

70. The Mayor's Court represented to us a great inconvenience arising from the custom of giving receipts for moneys deposited in our treasury by them, specifying the particular species of rupee deposited.

Feb'y. 20. For if they were *siccās* of the present year and were left in the treasury for twelve months, they being never appropriated to any other use and paid out in the identical specie specified in the receipt, their value would fall 3 per cent and so in progression proportionable to the time they remained. They therefore proposed that we should receive the moneys on account of deposits, and give receipts for the same in current rupees with the established *batta*.

71. As this method would remove the hardship by which the parties had been so long subjected to a considerable loss, we agreed to follow it in future, but with a proviso that in such cases as were expected by the charter, we would not be answerable for the sums deposited.

72. The Mayor's Court has sent us a set of their proceedings to be transmitted to you by this dispatch, and we have accordingly made it a number in our book packet by the *Verelst*.

73. Mr. John Robinson has been appointed Mayor and Mr. Lionel Darell Sheriff for the present year on taking the customary oaths.

74. We have during the last year appointed Messrs. B. Wright, Robt. Crawford, Robert Palk, John Evelyn, and George Bogle Aldermen, and have since granted Messrs. Wright and Palk leave to resign that office on the former being appointed President of the Judicial Court of *Cutcherry* and the latter one of the Council of Revenue at Patna.

14 Augt.  
June 9.  
Sept. 19.  
Nov. 13.

*Supplement*

75. We have already informed you in our letter by the *Grafton*<sup>3</sup> of the application of the agents for the Navy Donation for payment of the 1st moiety and of our resolution thereon. We soon after received a

Mar. 20. letter from them acquainting us that the French Agent had offered to accept our bonds which we had granted them in payment of the bill drawn by their constituents in England in favor of the French Company and desiring we would inform them whether they might comply with this offer or not. In the latter case they requested immediate payment of the penalty to secure themselves from a prosecution commenced against them by the French Agent.

76. As our intention in granting those bonds was to have them returned when we granted bills of exchange in November, and as those bonds in the hands of the French would procure them all the benefit we had endeavored to keep from them by declining payment of the donation money, we enjoined the navy agents under pain of our displeasure not to deliver them to the French on any terms, or apply them to any purpose but that for which they were granted; and we promised to pay them the amount of the penalty decreed against them should they be cast in the Mayor's Court, or if they should choose

to appeal from that decision, we promised to give them a bond for the amount of the decree, and indemnify them for all costs that might ensue from such a measure.

77. On their application for the payment of the 2nd moiety, we answered them that when our treasury would admit of it, we would  
 Feby. 7. discharge their demand, and have offered them interest bonds for their amount.

78. The Judicial Court of *Cutcherry* having complained to us of the neglect of those persons who had been appointed arbitrators in their attendance on the court or the delivery of their award, we ordered them to levy a fine on those people as well as on every person who in future should be guilty of this neglect and contempt of the court.

79. Your orders for dismissing Mr. Delaporte from his employ we sent to that gentleman and they took place immediately, but we could wish to recommend his case to your more favorable consideration.  
 Jany. 9, 1771. His letter which appears on our Consultations will point out to you the distress he is in, which with his extreme age is worthy of commiseration; and we can assure you that as far as his age and infirmities would permit he has been very diligent in attending the *cottah* and has shewn great knowledge in that business.

80. The Sub-Accomptant informed us at our last meeting of some mistakes which he found had been made in the bills of exchange granted the 22nd  
 Feby. 7, 1771. November last. As those bills had been transmitted to Europe by the ships that have sailed this season we could only caution him to be more careful in future. Indeed when we consider the shortness of the time allowed him, the multitude of bills occasioned by having treble sets, and the attention he was obliged to pay to the other branches of his department, we cannot but deem it very excusable, and the more so as the totals of the sums specified in the several sets are right, by which means the errors will be found out and rectified by the owners of the bills.

81. The Head Surgeon informs us that in the indent for medicines sent in this packet, the quantity of several of the principal articles is increased, as during the last year they experienced a great want of them, although what they received from Europe came very safe, except the ether and spirit of nitre, which were quite evaporated.

82. As the settlement is so much increased, and as a want of medicines cannot be supplied in this country and may be productive of melancholy consequences, we could wish you would order the full indent to be complied with.

83. We forward to you by the *Worcester* a plan of the mouth of the Calcutta river, or western branch of the Ganges, as likewise a chart of the head of ye Bay of Bengall from Point Palmyras to the coast of Aracan. As these surveys have been most accurately made by a gentleman of abilities, we hope they will be very acceptable and equally useful to your commanders bound to Coast and Bay.

84. Captain Compton has thought proper to protest against us for not dispatching him before the 11th of this month. A copy of the protest appears on our Consultations.

85. Mr. George Williamson having requested our permission to return to Europe on the *Verelst*, and offering Messrs. Samuel Middleton and Major John Grant as his securities that the suit we have commenced against him in the Mayor's Court should be defended, and to be answerable for the award of the Court, we complied with his request, as in your letter by the *Mansfield* you allow of our taking such a step on having good securities, and the above gentlemen are in every respect unexceptionable.

86. We have granted the Captain of the *Worcester* permission to receive on board a box of pearls valued at 11,144-15-3 rupees and consigned by Mr. James Lister to Messrs. Randolph Marriott and Robert Gregory, a register of which makes a number in the packet.

87. We shall in future be punctual in attending to your orders for sending home authenticated copies of the courts martial proceedings. We now transmit the usual office copies for the years 1769 and 1770 for your information.

88. Mr. John Taylor, the first surgeon on the civil establishment, has had our permission to resign and to return to Europe on the *Worcester*; he is succeeded by the next on the list of surgeons Mr. James Ellis.

89. We have granted permission to Mr. Jefferey Wilkins, a factor, to resign the service and to embark on the *Worcester*, his state of health having been very indifferent for some time past.

90. Lieutenant George Wright, Lieutenant Thomas Cooper, Everitt and Ensign Nash have also received our permission to resign and to proceed to Europe on the *Egmont*. We have granted certificates to the two former, Mr. Wright particularly designing if he can gain your permission to return to Bengall as soon as his health is re-established.

91. The following persons have likewise had our leave to return to Europe: Mrs. Peach, widow of the late Colonel Peach, on the *Worcester*; Mrs. Grueber, Mr. Matthew Miller, Mr. James Skinner, Mr. Walter Brown, and Mr. Richard Martin on the *Verelst*.

92. The indemnification bonds entered into by those who have taken home servants, natives of this country, are sent in the packets.

The following persons embark on the *Verelst* on the terms of charter party:

James Clout	} Serjeants
John Axworthy	
Charles Mills	
Thomas Walker	
Walter Caverson	
John Caissield	} Private
Joseph Morgan	
John James	
John Swan	

And on the *Worcester* as a charter party passenger, Thomas Makepeace, private. The Captains will receive their passage money in England.

[93] The cargo of the *Verelst* is valued in the invoice at rupees 12,12,400, and that of the *Worcester* at rupees 11,79,400,

[94] The ballance of cash in our treasury on this day was 40,47,175-1-3.

[95] We have drawn on you by these ships one hundred and thirteen treble sets of bills of exchange bearing date the 20 January 1771, payable in three years by equal annual proportions at the rate of two shillings and two pence half penny the current rupee, and amounting to £. sterling 164,918-5-0, one hundred and sixty-four thousand nine hundred and eighteen pounds and five shillings or current rupees 14,93,599-9-6 fourteen hundred ninety-three thousand, five hundred and ninety-nine current rupees, nine annaes and six pice.

[96] And seventy-seven treble sets of bills of exchange of the same date and time of payment at the rate of two shillings and three pence the current rupee, and amounting to £st.150,953-12 one hundred and fifty thousand nine hundred and fifty-three pounds and twelve shillings or current rupees 13,41,810-2-9 thirteen hundred forty-one thousand eight hundred and ten current rupees, two annaes and nine pice.

[97] The total amount of the above draughts being £st.315,871-17-0 three hundred and fifteen thousand eight hundred and seventy-one pounds, seventeen shillings or current rupees 28,35,409-12-3 twenty-eight lacks thirty-five thousand four hundred and nine current rupees, twelve annaes and three pice, particular register of which is annexed to this letter and signed by us.

[98] We have granted on the usual conditions the following certificates by the *Verelst*.

1 sett dated the 23rd January 1771 to David Baldcock, 2nd Officer of the <i>Verelst</i> . . . . .	Payable to himself for C.Rs. 2,597-6-0
1 sett dated the 11th February 1771 to Edward Elliston, Chief Officer of the <i>Verelst</i> . . . . .	Payable to himself for 3,248-0-0
	<hr/> 5,845-6-0

Fort William,  
12th February 1771.  
(Per *Verelst*  
Duplicate per *Worcester*)

We remain,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful humble servants,  
(signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer / John Reed / Francis  
Hare.

#### *Postscript*

1. Since closing our letter we have received an address from the Cossimbuzar factory enclosing one from Mr. Robinson to them, copies of which we transmit numbers in the packet that you may be informed of the progress of this new method, and have the satisfaction of finding Mr. Wiss and Mr. Robinson both of opinion that the Italian method of reeling may with due attention and encouragement be diffused throughout the country. We send by each ship a box containing Messrs. Wiss and Robinsons' samples of their filature, and by the *Verelst* a sample of the cocoons sent us by Mr. Robinson.



2. Having lately had intimation of the discovery of a rock made by the *London*, a country ship, about 100 leagues to the eastward of Ceylon in  $5^{\circ}22'N.$  Lat., we thought it a matter of such public concern as to merit some attention; and we therefore send a number in the packet copy of a letter on the subject received by one of the members of our Board from a gentleman now in your army, who was then an officer on board the *London*.

3. Since closing our letter Mr. Lushington, administrator to Mr. Paddy's estate, has sent us all the information he can procure concerning Mr. Faugora's chest of silver. Copy of his letter to our Secretary and of the extract from Mr. Paddy's books make numbers in our packet.

4. The General Books of the Presidency not being entirely finished though they are in great forwardness, we have thought it more conducive to your interest to dispatch these ships with their valuable cargoes as soon as possible than to keep them waiting for the Books, more particularly as the *Mansfield* will sail so shortly after them.

5. We have just now received another sample of Mr. Wiss's silk, which we forward to you by the *Verelst*. The letter accompanying it from the Chief and Council of Cossimbuzar, we send a copy of in the packet.

Fort William,  
12[27] February 1771<sup>4</sup>.  
(Per *Verelst*  
Duplicate per *Worcester*)

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithfull humble servants,  
(signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Chs. Floyer / John Reed / Francis Hare.

20

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1771

*Maratha movement towards Delhi: possibility of their raising the Shahzada to the throne—improvement of the defences of Patna.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Our last address bore date the 18th January which waited on you by the *Europa*.

2. In our several letters of this season we have endeavored to be as full and particular of the state of this country and that of the neighbouring powers, with the several events which have occurred in the course of last year, as was in our power. The despatch of the *Verelst* and *Worcester* gives us another





Mirza Jawan Bakht

opportunity of writing to inform you of such occurrences as have taken place since the date of our last letter.

3. We had the honor to inform you that the progress of the Morattahs in the country of the Rohillahs and their incursions into the province of Corah laid us under the necessity to order the march of the Third Brigade to the Caramanassa. We have now the pleasure to inform you that this part of your army lies now there encamped and we hope will have no occasion to advance any farther at least for the present.

4. These hopes we have the pleasure to acquaint you are founded on the Morattahs having raised the blockade of Furruckabad and are [*sic*] marching in different bodies towards the capital, which is more than possible they are by this time masters of, and with it of the King's eldest son the *Shawzadda*.

5. This sudden change may possibly be owing to an alteration in the King's resolution in consequence of the repeated admonitions we have made His Majesty not to place any confidence in them, and which have been strongly supported by the advice of the Nabob Munerah ul Dowlah. Probably the movement of the Brigade had its proper weight in the councils of both parties, or a disunion among the Morattah chiefs may have all tended to occasion this change of measures.

6. Whatever be the cause their present intentions is most likely to prosecute the plan we before advised you had been proposd by Ghazy ul dine Cawn—the setting up the *Shawzadda* as King and himself as Vizier; and in such event the mischiefs that we mentioned were to be apprehended may, we fear, come to pass. A short time must now put us on a certainty, and in the meanwhile it would be imprudent to make any alteration in the disposition of the troops.

7. The defenceless state of Patna from the condition of the ramparts and the ditch being filled up by the ruins has been strongly represented to us, and the place, it would appear, is exposed to every flying party of cavalry in case of an incursion of Morattahs or any other power. It is certain policy directs that the capital of the province should be secure from surprize as it would be the azylum for the wealth of the province and the whole country would resort to it. However the very heavy expence you have long been at for various buildings induce us to defer giving any encouragement to the repairing this work untill we can receive General Barker's opinion on the subject and an estimate of the expence.

8. The gentlemen of the deputation to the King and Vizier in 1768 feel themselves extremely hurt by your insinuations in your letter per *Mansfield* to the prejudice of their disinterestedness and integrity as they have wished to preserve the good opinion of their honorable employers, and in this instance had flattered themselves to have merited by a scrupulous regard to their own honor. Mr. Russell on this occasion has requested our permission to deliver in a declaration upon oath, which you will find on the proceedings of the 7th February.

9. Mr. Becher having resigned his seat in Committee, Mr. Russell has succeeded to the vacancy, and Mr. Floyer has been appointed a temporary member during the absence of Mr. Alexander.



10. We have the honor to transmit you by this ship a compleat sett of proceedings for last year and a broken sett from the 29th December to the 16th February together with a compleat copy of the country correspondence from January to December 1770.

Fort William,  
the 16th February 1771.  
(Per *Verelst*  
Duplicate per *Worcester*  
Triplicate per *Lord Mansfield*)

We are,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(signed) John Cartier / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

## 21

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1771

*Marathas in possession of Delhi—Shah Alam's intention to obtain his restoration with the help of the Marathas—Vazir's plan to secure Shah Alam's return to Delhi with the help of his own forces—Company's support to the move, although little hope of its success was entertained—Barker sent to dissuade Shah Alam from joining the Marathas.*

[[O the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We did ourselves the honour to address you by the ship *Verelst*, duplicate of which letter was sent per *Worcester*.

2. As the sailing of the *Mansfield* will be the last opportunity by a sea conveyance which will occur for some months, we shall by her advise you of such events as may have taken place in the north-west parts of India since our last dispatch.

3. We informed you in our last that the Morattah forces, then under command of Ram Chunder Gunnies, had raised the blockade of Furruckabad and were proceeding in seperate bodies with great rapidity towards the capital, which, from its defenceless condition and no enemy to oppose them, we supposed they must at the time of our writing have been in possession of and with it of the different de[s]cendants and branches of the Royal family. A few days after the dispatch of the *Verelst* and *Worcester* we received from the Vizier and General Sir Robert Barker a full confirmation that our conjectures were just, but were surprized to hear that this motion of the Morattahs, which appeared to us so opposite to the real interest of the King and Royal family, had been advised and recommended by His Majesty himself. It appeared to us a circumstance scarce credible from its improbability and would not have gained our belief had we not been immediately furnished with incontestible proofs that it was a real fact; nay, the King himself did not deny it, only pretended that when he recommended the measure he was in hopes it would have employed their attention in negotiating, and taken off their thoughts

from the resolution they had formed of setting up the *Shawzadda* on the throne if he longer hesitated in joining them. As the King made a frank confession of this without any endeavors on our side to sound him as to the true motive of his conduct, it was natural to give some kind of credit to it; and though we might condemn the ill success of his policy, we had no reason then to arraign his sincerity. However we have since been informed that he not only encouraged the Morattahs to bend their rout to Delhi, but that he himself is absolutely determined to join them as soon as the necessary preparations are made on the occasion; and as he finds he can no longer entertain hopes of receiving assistance from us in the accomplishment of an object which has long been nearest his heart, it appears to us he had rather depend on the Morattah power than on any assistance from those of his own faith, and would rather see his capital Delhy in the hands of the Morattahs than in those of Zabita Cawn son of the late Nudjeb ul Dowlah, or even (in his present disposition) in his Vizier's.

4. The Morattahs since taking possession of Delhi have been in general inactive from what we can hear, but clamorous for the payment of certain stipulated sums which were promised them on their arrival there and which from the poverty of the Royal treasury cannot be immediately paid: however as their troops are in possession of an extensive tract of country they have the power by laying it under contribution of paying themselves. The season is so far advanced there is little likelihood of their returning again to the southward, and their further designs must be suspended till the rains are over. Great dissensions and different opinions have prevailed among the chiefs of the Morattahs through the whole of their last campaign, and had they been opposed by any power among whom union and confidence prevailed, their views would have been entirely frustrated, or their progress much checked. Bysagee Pundit<sup>1</sup>, Dewan of Madaverow, has superseded Ramchunder Gunnies in the command of the Morattah forces.

5. Anterior to the King's intentions and designs being made known to us with respect to the Morattahs, a conference at the earnest desire of the Vizier had taken place between him and General Sir Robert Barker at Benares. The then present situation of affairs, the motion of the Morattahs to the capital, had a more serious effect in alarming the Vizier's fears than their hostile incursions even to the frontiers of his own country, and he was desirous of forming some plan which might break the designs of the Morattahs in their declared intention of placing a new king on the throne and appointing a new vizier to the Empire. The mere apprehension of the loss of his dignity, or that a pretence should be raised to it, stimulates him to designs and vigorous measures, which a sense of his own danger or his own security in protecting his neighbours never raised in his mind. Sir Robert Barker's

Proceeding the  
1st March.

address to our Committee under date the 15th February informs us of the different proposals which the Vizier had made, and that those which he had esteemed inadmissible

he objected to. It was at last resolved, provided it met with our approbation, that the Vizier, accompanied with the King, should march without delay and join the Rohillahs and Pattans, who the Vizier made no doubt would unite with confidence and sincerity under the Royal banner and join heartily in the common cause to extirpate the Morattahs from the capital, that the Vizier's

family should remain at Fayzabad, and that instead of one, two of our battalions should be ordered to remain in his country for its protection and for the better security of its revenues. The Vizier represented that as his sole view was to protect the honor of the King and his own reputation he must necessarily be at the whole expence of the expedition, and hoped that if his endeavors succeeded, and His Majesty was again re-established on the throne of his ancestors, and the neighbouring powers had settled their revenue, His Majesty would amply reward him by restoring to him again the country he was possessed of at the death of his father, in which case he should make over to us the post of Chunar in lieu of the fort of Allahabad as a proper place of arms and a convenient post for our forces should we ever be obliged to pass out of our own provinces to his assistance.

6. The above plan, Honourable Sirs, we have advised the Vizier we must approve of, and have encouraged him to a vigorous prosecution of it; and the motives which induced us to signify such approbation it is necessary we should herein explain to you. It appeared to us most likely, and subsequent events have since confirmed us in our opinion, that this plan will never take place; and to have denied our assent to what was so improbable to happen would have weakened that tie of friendship which we wish to preserve inviolate with the King and Vizier. At the same time we could not help reflecting on the disagreeable situation to which the King was reduced by the Morattahs being not only in possession of the capital but of his eldest son, and their avowed intention of appointing a new king, if he himself did not immediately join them. We were apprehensive of the resolutions which His Majesty might take to avert the evils which seemed ready to fall upon him; and to prevent him from listening to the persuasion of the Morattahs, we thought it better he should owe his restoration to the Vizier than to them. We were sensible at the same time that this could not be effected by the Vizier but by the defeat of the Morattahs or their voluntarily quitting the country, that even should the Morattahs prevail, the possessions of the Company would not be more endangered than if they (the Morattahs) had been left unmolested; and we flattered ourselves such an event happening would have proved the effectual means of drawing the different powers into a general union on seeing their common danger. The defeat of the Morattahs would greatly tend to restore peace and tranquility to the country; but neither the King or his Vizier have abilities equal to establish a government so wise, steady and permanent as to endanger your possessions? Had we not approved the measures which the Vizier so earnestly recommended, it is most likely he would not have stepped forth so far on the occasion, and it is most probable the King would [have] then thrown himself into the hands of the Morattahs through necessity which he now avows he is determined to do by choice. It may be further added that a power did not remain with us to prevent what we did not approve; and we have only approved because the alternative we have adopted appears the most eligible, as the person of the King in the hands of the Morattahs might have been attended with most serious consequences; and we have with more readiness consented to the measure as the good or ill success of the enterprize entailed little or no responsibility on the Honorable Company. Though this plan had received the apparent concurrence of the King, he has since adopted a different one and is determined to join the Morattahs, from what motive the King acts is best known to himself; but we conclude it must



either proceed from a jealousy of the Vizier or the suspicion he has conceived that nothing seriously is intended by him. The Vizier on his part seems steady and has proceeded to the frontier of his country with a view of holding a conference with Hafez Rhamet Cawn, Chief of the Rohilla; but whether this conference will ever take place is very uncertain, and the Rohillah on his part appears rather lukewarm and backward.

7. The Vizier seems himself to insinuate that the measures which the King has taken are likely to embarrass his endeavors to promote a general union and desires our mediation with His Majesty and to prevail upon him to drop all his views and to depend solely on him (the Vizier). The Vizier, we are sensible, would be much pleased if even coercive measures were used by us over His Majesty; but such we shall never adopt, being sensible they are as foreign to your inclinations as they are to ours, but as far as fair argument and plain reason will go, shall be exerted to dissuade him from going over to the Morattahs; and we hope before this General Barker may have proceeded to Allahabad to represent the ill consequences which are most likely to attend an undertaking of this nature in which he must be unaccompanied by any of the powers of India to give credit to it, and must rest his dependance intirely on the faith of a people, who will have no other motive of assisting him but what may spring from his ability of making over to them new grants of different districts of the Royal territory. At the same time that we have given in charge to General Barker to dissuade if possible His Majesty from throwing himself into the hands of the Morattahs, we have strongly recommended to him to reconcile the King to the spirited measures seemingly adopted by his Vizier for his restoration, and to send on this expedition the Royal standard accompanied by one of the young princes rather than undertake it himself untill affairs wear a more favorable aspect and the Vizier's success may remove every shadow of indignity being offered to His Majesty's person.

8. In this situation the political affairs of this country at present stand, and we hope the account we have now the honor to transmit you will afford you a clear idea of the same.

9. The Third Brigade remains encamped on the banks of the Caramanassa. As this situation in the present heats will most likely be injurious to the health of the Europeans and nothing but the emergency of affairs can justify their remaining there, we have directed General Sir Robert Barker to draw them into [quarters?] of cantonment whenever he is once convinced that the Morattahs have no intention to proceed again to the southward, or the execution of the Vizier's plan must be suspended till approaching rains have taken off.

10. We have the honor to transmit you by this ship a broken sett of our proceedings to the 31st March and [broken?] sett of country correspondence from the dispatch of the *Lapwing* to the end of March.

Fort William,  
the 31st March 1771.  
(Per *Lord Mansfield*  
Duplicate per *Stag Frigate*)

We are,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithfull and most obedient  
humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Charles  
Floyer.



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1771

*Committees of the Fort William Council—protest against reduction in the emoluments of the members of the Council: privilege of private trade considered an insufficient compensation—explanation as to how provision of investment interfered with revenue collection—probable evil consequences of the restrictions on free trade in silk—why surgeons were allowed a share in the commission money in contravention of the Court's instructions—Bolts's case regarding clandestine trade—sundry matters relating to service, accounts, experiments in silk-reeling, charter party, etc.—progress in public works: near completion of the cantonments at Dinapore and Berhampore—rejection of Bolts's appeal against the decision of the Mayor's Court.*

**T**O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Gentlemen,

1. Since the dispatch of the *Verelst* and *Worcester*, we have been favoured  
 7th March. with the receipt of your letter of 27th June by His Majesty's  
 19th March. ship *Dolphin*, as also of your letter of the 6 April by the  
 7th March. *True Briton*, via Bombay. We have likewise received from  
 Sect. Dept. the Presidency of Madrass such extracts from the Commis-  
 sioner's letters as either immediately or distantly relate to this Presidency.

2. Every order you have been pleased to give to the Commissioners, and every arrangement you have pointed out to take place, shall with equal punctuality be obeyed, as if those gentlemen were here to carry them into execution.

3. The committees have been formed to superintend the management of  
 7th March. every branch of your affairs upon the plan laid down in  
 Sect. Dept. your letter to the Commissioners. But as our Board at present is not full from the absence of Messrs. Alexander and Aldersey to enable us to form them of particular numbers, it has been resolved for the present that committee of the whole Board shall take place for conducting the same, and we have now the pleasure to inform you that they have already sat and issued the necessary orders for the several departments they are appointed to superintend.

4. We have written circular letters to the Chiefs and Councils of the  
 14th March. Revenue Department as likewise to those of the different  
 Sect. Dept. factories directing them that their future allowances as regulated by your orders are to take place from ye first April.  
 Ever ready to obey the orders given us if not diametrically opposite to your interest from particular and local circumstances we shall never hesitate to put into execution such as may only concern the interest of individuals in your service, and however severe we may consider those orders we should not consider ourselves justifiable in disobeying them; but a candid and fair representation of any grievance we are sensible it is not your intention to deny to your servants; and the present instance, we humbly apprehend, affords us but too striking

an occasion to remonstrate on. The allowances made to your senior servants under Council, we must take the liberty to observe, are scarcely adequate to a bare subsistence, much less a decent one (which we apprehend is your full intention to afford them), and must, we judge, inevitably abate the zeal of the most honest and stagger the integrity of the weak. Be pleased to consider, Honorable Sirs, the present great difference in the circumstances and situation of your service to what it was heretofore: that your servants have at this time the collections of three millions of money, that many of them, very young men, have the direction and controul of provinces whose revenues yield one hundred thousand pounds, and from them it is expected that by a wise, moderate and disinterested conduct, these provinces are to be brought to the most improveable state and the inhabitants rendered happy, a station on which depends so much responsibility, not only in integrity, but also in an exertion of every moral virtue for the discharge of the great duties expected from them.

5. From this plain but concise representation of a fact, can it be prudent, Honorable Sirs, by a rigid and strict oeconomy observed to your servants, to expose them to the great temptations which their situation must naturally offer and which laboring under a bare subsistence they must possess more than human fortitude to resist? It is not to support luxury that we are now pleading; it is for the sustaining of that zeal in your servants so necessary to promote the welfare of the Company and the preservation of their integrity by experiencing proofs of your indulgence and adequate rewards for their labors. Though we wish as much as possible to crush unnecessary parade and ostentation in every department of your service, yet we are too well acquainted with the customs of the country not to know that no people are more struck with appearances than the Asiatics, and that some distinction is essentially necessary to be observed between those that command and those who are to obey, that the very nature of the appointment must make numbers depend on the members of the Council of Revenue as well as on the Supervisors, and that many of those will have allowances greatly superior to your servants from whom they are to receive their orders. These considerations solely and not a lavish disposition to squander your property induced your administration here to make such large allowances to gentlemen appointed to your Council of Revenue, and tacitly to approve of those which the Resident at the Durbar recommended to be allowed to the Supervisors, though comparatively high to these now ordered to take place. We had every reason to hope that so large a field as was then laid open to your servants for rendering the most important services to their employers, and that the experience of an increasing revenue arising from an improved cultivation and the retrenchment of a heavy load of surperfluous expence in servants, would have fully justified us in the measure.

6. We beg leave to assure you, Honorable Sirs, that it will always be with reluctance when we presume to take up your time on matters of a private nature, and much more so when the subject immediately relates to the private concerns of the members of your Council.

7. We are highly sensible of your equitable intentions to secure to the members of your Council such a share in the trade of these provinces as may become their stations, as well as compensate for their disappointments in not succeeding to chiefships; but sorry are we to inform you that there are many impediments to their availing themselves at present of your indulgence. We

find that endeavours have been used to secure for this season the principal and indeed only lucrative articles of trade in Bengal by those whose stations and influence over the several parts of this country have given them advantages very far superior to those enjoyed by members of your Council at the Presidency. It admits not a doubt but they will have many difficulties to encounter with in the course of their trade in the principal articles produced in this country from those persons who from their stations and influence in the different districts may be desirous of usurping a superior privilege in trade, or who from long established custom may think themselves entitled to advantages in the articles produced in their respective districts in

14th March.  
Sect. Dept.

preference even to the members of the Council. But these are measures we are determined shall not operate to their

prejudice, since every effort of this administration shall be exerted towards the support of a free and uninterrupted trade throughout these provinces agreeably to what you have been pleased to prescribe ; and we shall not fail to make the severest examples of such of your servants, or other persons residing under your Government, as shall presume to counteract your just and equitable intentions.

8. The advantages arising from a free trade to the members of the Council have in the above representation been confined to articles produced and vended within these provinces, for therein consist the only advantages which they can hope to derive. The trade from port to port in India including the first purchase of exports at the *aurungs* and sale of imports in the interior part of the country, which was formerly very beneficial, has, it is well known, of late proved quite the reverse, of which as a convincing proof we may mention that concerns in the freight ships have been offered on very low terms and rejected. But supposing such trade was now as tempting as heretofore, the members of your Council could not carry it on without interfering with the very large investments you have directed to be sent you annually, and it is only from their trade in a few principal articles of interior commerce that they can hope for future advantages in your service.

9. Mr. Kelsall dissenting to the foregoing paragraph makes it his request that you may be informed thereof, and his reasons which he could not at this time offer without occasioning a delay in the present dispatch will hereafter appear upon our proceedings.

10. In your letter per ship *Mansfield*<sup>1</sup>, paragraph 43, you have required from us the reason why the mode of providing the investment clashes with the business of collecting the revenue. Though this evil has prevailed for some time past and has in some degree even now an existence, yet we flatter ourselves it will annually diminish, and may in time be totally abolished by a proper attention in the Comptrolling Council of Revenue and the Supervisors of each district to suppress every step which tends to oppression either in the collectors of the revenue or the agents employed in providing the investment. This evil may have been considered to have taken its rise from the decline of the Moorish Government and the increase in the influence and power of your own. At this period your orders for investments were considerable. They have since been continually increasing and they could not be fulfilled unless those who were appointed to provide them assumed more power over the different manufacturers than it was prudent or even possible for them to



have done before. The Government was not then in our hands, and the principal object to every one of your servants was to provide such an investment as was judged would be the means of recommending him to you; this gave but too much reason for Government to complain, and to complain too frequently without cause. In short, Honorable Sirs, the agents stationed on the part of the Company interfered more or less with Government: and such of them as were natives but too often assumed the characters of magistrates, protecting the riots or farmers and preventing the due rents from being collected under the specious pretext that those ryotts were Company's *pykars*, *chassars* etc., and that by giving them up to Government the investment would be impeded, and that the Company would suffer from outstanding ballances in the hands of those people if they were subject to the controul and demands of their respective zemindars, collectors etc., and the zemindars when they were to account with Government for their rents never failed to urge the undue power exerted by the Company's *gomastahs*, as a reason for the non-performance of their settlements, and exaggerated every difficulty they had felt on this account in order to induce Government to remit a part of their demands. On the other hand it may be alledged that the investment has suffered in many parts from the conduct of the zemindars, who have obstructed the manufacturers in their business, and harassed them by exacting arbitrary demands over and above their lawfull rent, and exercising in an oppressive manner their judicial authority over them in cases of complaint.

11. In addition to what we wrote you per ship *Verelst*<sup>2</sup> in answer to paragraph 47 of the letter per ship *Mansfield* in which you demand of us in what manner restrictions on the private trade in *putney* can prejudice the revenue of the country, we have to observe that this is a point which appears to us so evidently striking as to allow us no doubt of affording full conviction on so important a matter. It must be first considered that this country solely depends on its fertility and manufactures for its riches—mines of gold and silver have not yet been discovered or at least have produced very small quantities of those metals—and that the exchange of the manufactures for specie during a long succession of ages is the true source of its reputed opulence. Any regulation which must decrease the imports of bullion does in effect strike at its prosperity, and this particular restriction on the private trade in *putney* would materially hurt its commerce by preventing merchants from resorting annually to these provinces as they have hitherto done from Guzzerat, Akberabad, Lahor, Multahn, etc., with large sums of money with a view of providing an investment of silk and silk piece goods, and which trade at this time though greatly diminished is yet very considerable. It must be confessed the Honorable Companies' provision of an investment gives a subsistence to many thousands of people; but as their investment is provided by the money which arises from their revenue it cannot be considered as adding in the least to the opulence of the country and the drain which has been open for some years past requires to be stopped from the distress the country at present suffers through a want of that specie which has been carried out of it. This evil cannot be effectually remedied but by a general freedom given to trade and thereby to encourage the importation of money. And we must again repeat what we before observed in our letter per *Verelst*, that the produce of raw silk is in general to a much larger amount than ye Company have funds to purchase, allowing at the same time for supplys to the other branches of



their investment and for the charges attending their civil, military and marine departments; that such a general restriction would therefore instead of being a benefit to the Company be ruinous to this branch of their commerce by the discouragement the manufacturer would in such case necessarily meet with, and a partial restriction would be so open to abuses as to render it an insupportable evil.

12. We shall at all times be carefull to enforce the Act of Parliament for sending home such persons as may clandestinely find their way to this country.

13. At the same time we shall be mindfull of your orders respecting the commanders of country vessels who may convey from the other side of India such unlicenced persons in violation of your express prohibition.

14. We have reason to believe that Mr. Vernon Duffield resides at one of the foreign settlements. Should he at any time come to Calcutta we shall not fail to apprehend and send him back to England.

15. As we learn from the gentlemen of Fort Marlbro' that Captain Burghall has leave from them to come to this Presidency as well as to look after his private concerns as for the recovery of his health,  
 4th March. we shall till his arrival suspend taking any steps towards the recovery of the £500 that was advanced him before his leaving England, and by whatever method the payment may be obtained we shall not fail hereafter to advice both you and the Bencoolen Presidency.

16. We can only lament that Mr. Kelsall's affidavit of the conversation that passed betwixt him and Mr. Danl. Lankeet relative to the clandestine trade carrying on by Mr. Bolts jointly with Mr. Vernet at  
 26th March. Dacca should not be of sufficient validity to be made use of as evidence in a Court of Record; either Mr. Kelsall's or Mr. Lankeet's absence from Dacca has frustrated any endeavours on the part of the former to obtain from Mr. Lankeet an authentick testimony of this transaction, nor indeed do we suppose that gentleman could give such testimony without subjecting himself to severe persecutions from his own nation.

17. We have no reason to believe that any other Companies' servant was engaged in this undertaking: on the contrary it appears to have been a joint concern of Messrs. Bolts and Vernet solely and was as we learn prosecuted by one Coja Miguel, an Armenian agent of Mr. Bolts, upon Mr. Lankeet's declining the commission.

18. Upon a subject of such importance as that recommended in the 119 paragraph of your letter per *Mansfield* we were desirous of having the opinion of the Commander in Chief of your forces, and our President was accordingly desired to write to Sir Robt. Barker as we advised in our letter of 12th February. The General's presence in the field will not admit of his putting his thoughts in writing with that accuracy which the nature of the subject seems to require, and we hope we shall stand excused if we suspend offering you our sentiments until the next conveyance, for added to our desire of having Sir Robt. Barker's opinion, we consider that the establishment of an adequate fund and the mode of applying it so as best to answer the proposed ends and in short the thorough digest and arrangement of such a plan are points of too great importance to be concluded upon hastily, nor will our other avocations

which are more immediately necessary in the present dispatch admit of our taking up the subject at this juncture.

19. We are under the most extreme concern that the deviation we presumed to make from your arrangement of the commission money has so entirely met with your disapprobation. Nothing could have induced us to this step but a full persuasion that the surplus arising was intended as a recompense for those servants either on your civil or military establishment in Bengal whose particular profession or situation made them proper objects of your consideration. It was this and this only which influenced your Board to consider the civil and military surgeons in that distribution, gentlemen whose profession render them so useful to the settlement, whose appointments are so small and prospects so distant as to give them weak hopes of procuring that independancy which is the natural wish of every individual. So confident were we of your entire approval of the reasons urged on this head that we even did not think it necessary to take from the surgeons such an acknowledgement as would have given us a claim to the recovery of the money, should we hereafter have found we had acted contrary to your intentions. If we have erred in doing what we flattered ourselves would have met with your entire approbation we are sufficiently punished in falling under the weight of your censure, and we must think the positive order you have sent us to pay back such sums into your treasury so extreamly hard that we flatter ourselves you will not continue to insist on it when we declare that our sole motive was to fulfill what we thought your intentions and not to act in direct contradiction to them.

20. Such of your servants as may have received a proportion of the commission money out of the line of your orders, and have either given a security bond or consider themselves answerable to pay back the same on such an allotment not meeting with your approbation and ready to refund this money

26th March. shall be received and carried to the credit of the unappropriated commission. On this occasion we beg leave to refer you to a letter unto the Board by Messrs. Reed and Hare as it stands recorded 21st [26th] March.

21. Your orders with respect to Balambangan shall be complied with as far as may lay in our power. We have no other lights to follow regarding the

19th March. present state of that place but such as have been given us by private intelligence, and those are very unfavorable in the representation of the progress made in forming a settlement on that island. One of your schooners is nearly ready to proceed on this service, and though the amount of her cargo will not be equal to what you ordered yet we imagine in the present state of Balambangan it will be fully sufficient for the purpose of opening a commerce. As soon as the cargo is provided the schooner shall be dispatched to the Presidency of Fort St. George agreeable to your orders.

22. The manner in which you had been pleased to make mention of the Commander of your forces in the 179th paragraph of your commands per *Mansfield* making it somewhat doubtfull to us whether you intended him thereby to have a constant seat in your Councils, we deferred taking this matter into consideration untill the arrival of your orders to the Commissioners from Madras wherein we supposed his appointment would be more clearly explained.

In this we were not disappointed, for it being therein expressly ordered that your Council should be composed of ten members including the General and

19 March. Commander of your forces, our doubts were removed and we accordingly informed Brigadier General Sir Robt. Barker of the honor you had conferred upon him and that we esteemed him a member of your administration. An address of thanks from the General on this occasion you will be pleased to receive a number in the packet.

23. Our motives for the removal from the territories of Sujah Dowlah and Bulwan Sing the Armenians who have presented a memorial of their grievances to you in England as well as the means employed to affect it appear at large on the face of our proceedings referred to in the margin. These persons were discovered in carrying on intrigues at the Court of Sujah Dowlah and there was strong presumption that they were the instruments of obtaining for Mr. Bolts copies of our President's correspondence with the Vizier. These circumstances, not to mention the experience we before had of the intriguing spirit of the Armenians during the Government of Cossim Ally Cawn, gave us great reason to be alarmed at the influence they had thus assumed. Such surely were very unfit, nay dangerous, men to be suffered about the Vizier's person, especially at a crisis when his actions afforded us but too much cause of mistrust; and we may add that at this very time, notwithstanding an order in force prohibiting the residence of *gomastahs* of English gentlemen in the territories of Sujah Dowlah and Bulwan Sing, or indeed anywhere without the provinces, Mr. Bolts in defiance of this order would presume to continue his agents and that as it should seem not merely to wind up his old concerns in trade but to engage in new ones. From these considerations we hope it will clearly appear to you that there was an urgent necessity for their removal, and that our endeavours to effect it were entirely political and not from a motive of resentment either against Mr. Bolts or the Armenians themselves.

24. It is not the act itself so much as the mode of executing it that is objected to. Yet it does not appear to us that our late President Verelst was the immediate instrument of their removal as has been insinuated, but that it was an act of the princes themselves in compliance with our request and entirely optional on their parts. But admitting even that the order should have come immediately from our President or that our sepoys had been employed, we presume that we should stand fully justified before you for such an exertion of authority against persons who would not only set our orders at defiance, but were likely busied in schemes and intrigues of the most dangerous tendency which might have affected Government, had not a stop been put to them by their removal.

25. We are but too sensible how disagreeable appeals of this nature must be to you and shall therefore be ever studious to prevent them by lending a ready ear to the complaint of all persons whatever that may think themselves injured and shall make known their grievances to us.

26. We send you by this ship which form a part of the book packet a general abstract of the disbursements of this Presidency for the year 1770. On a comparative view between the charges of the last and the preceeding year, there appears an excess in the last year of the sum of 8,24,299-7-4; but when



it comes to be considered that near half a brigade acted in 1769 in the Decan under the orders of the Presidency of Fort St. George, the pay and contingent charges of which were carried to the debit of Coast detachment and does not appear in our abstract of disbursements, it will account for the great difference there is in the expence of the First Brigade in the two years : and the increase under the head of *buxey* and Storekeeper of the New Works chiefly arises from the extraordinary quantity of work which has been on hand in the course of last year on the fortifications at the Presidency, Budge Budge, and the cantonments at Burrampore, and that under the head of Military Storekeeper is on account of an entire new set of field equipage furnished the three regiments and the cost of artillery and transport, carriages and tumbrils being disbursed from this office which were before discharged from the office of Storekeeper of the New Works, and likewise that the laboratory stores of all denominations being now made at the Presidency.

27. The gentlemen of the Presidency of Madrass addressed us in consequence of an application made by their Chief Engineer Lieutenant Colonel Ross on the subject of the rank of the Engineer Corps with respect to the military. It was not in our power to inform the gentlemen of Madrass with certainty what was the established regulation in His Majesty's service. We could only inform them what had been of late the usage on our establishment in the garrison of Fort William. As this hereafter may have its consequences, we are to request to be favoured with your sentiments on the subject as likewise to be informed of the fixed established usage in His Majesty's service when any part of the Engineer Corps are on the same duty either with artillery and infantry. As the commissions granted to officers in the Engineer Corps are expressed in the same terms with those granted to officers of infantry, a conclusion may be drawn from thence that when acting together the date of their commissions must determine the priority of particular ranks.

28. Lieutenant Colonel Campbell as administrator to Mr. Fras. Stewart having informed us that 2 sets of bills of exchange had been drawn out differently from what the said Mr. Stewart who paid in the money had desired, as (his death happening in the interval betwixt the payment of the money and issuing the bills) they had been made payable to his administrators, which mistake if not rectified might cause the loss of the money to the persons to whom Mr. Stewart has desired the bills might be made payable, and having requested that we would on his giving up those bills order others to be drawn out in favour of Richd. Hutchins and Emerson Tidy, the persons whose names had been given in by Mr. Stewart, we agreed to this request on his returning the former sets compleat : and we now transmit a number in the packet a particular account of the old bills which have been cancelled and of the new ones which are drawn out in their room bearing the same numbers as the others 353-354.

29. Immediately on receipt of your orders for transmitting home all original papers relative to Mr. Bolts and also two sets of copies, we ordered a set of copies to be made of all those in the Secretary's office and in that of the Select Committee, and applied to the Mayor's Court for copies of such as appeared on their records. But we have been obliged to deviate from the express letter of your

12 Decemr.  
Sect. Dept.

19th March.

26 March.

14th March.  
Sect. Dept.



orders that we might obey what appeared to us the spirit of them, for you order that the originals shall be first transmitted, and that each of the two sets of copies shall be compared with the originals by the captains and first and second mates of the ships on which they are sent. But as we have only the *Mansfield* in the Bay, we should have been unable had we forwarded the

26 March. originals by her to have had the copies examined and attested by the officers of the ships on which they might be sent. We have therefore enclosed in this packet one set of copies attested by the Captain and Chief Mate, the Captain declaring it impracticable for 2nd Mate to leave the ship just at the point of her departure and when he was confined to his bed and his Chief Mate acting for him in Calcutta. The Mayor's Court papers are attested only by the Chief Mate as the Register would not entrust any of the records out of his office and the Captain was dangerously ill at a garden house.

30. The second set of copies shall be sent home by the next ship and the originals will follow in the ship dispatched after her. A set of copies shall likewise be lodged amongst our records authenticated under the seal of the Company.

31. We have received a letter from one Mr. Berrie setting forth his services in saving the Company's books and papers from a fire which happened about 12 months since at Bankipore and for which he refused a large sum of money offered him by the acting Chief of Patna. In his address he desires that he may be recommended to you on this account and in consideration of his refusal of the pecuniary reward; but as we are entirely ignorant of the circumstances he mentions, and as an answer from Patna to the letter we wrote on this affair cannot arrive 'till after the ship's departure, we have only to refer you to his letter and to add that he bears the character of a worthy young man.

32. We have the honor to transmit you as numbers in the packet copies of a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and of two addresses to them from Mr. Robinson as we imagine that it will afford you satisfaction to be informed of the great progress made in the new mode of silk winding. We have also laden on board the *Mansfield* five boxes containing raw silk of the filatures of Messrs. Wiss and Robinson.

33. Lieutenant Colonel Pearce has addressed us on the particular hardships and inconveniences under which the Commander of artillery at present labours in point of emoluments and allowances, and of the restriction which hinders him from ever rising to the rank of a colonel and consequently deprives him of all hopes of attaining to the command of the army.

19 March. 34. However, just and well-founded these complaints might be, we could only inform him that they would be referred to your determination, and they are accordingly entered on our Consultations for that purpose.

35. We have granted permission to Captain Christian Knudson to resign the service and to proceed to Europe to settle his concerns. As he professes a design of returning to India he desired a recommending letter to your Honorable Court. This being out of course we could not grant; but we have given him a certificate of his good behaviour

19 March.

and faithful discharge of his duty. And indeed we cannot but commend him as a worthy officer. He returns to Europe overland by way of Bussorah.

36. Lieutenant Arnoldus Jones Skelton has obtained our leave to resign his commission and to proceed on the *Mansfield*. We have granted him a certificate for his good services.  
31st. Jany.

37. There likewise go passengers on the *Mansfield* Mr. Charles Inglish, who came out the last season as a surgeon, and Mrs. Susannah Watkins, who arrived here on the *Mansfield*.  
19 March.

38. The following persons go home on the terms of charter party:—

Richard Harper . . . . .	
Egleton Trott . . . . .	Private
Thomas Burford . . . . .	
William Boyce . . . . .	
John Cox . . . . .	Insane
John Hare . . . . .	Gunner
Thomas Caples . . . . .	Matrosses
Samuel Pates . . . . .	Insane
Frederick Higgins . . . . .	Served but 9 months, dismissed for infamous behaviour.

The Captain will receive the passage money in England.

39. By private advices we are informed that the *Morse* was at the Cape at the same time with the *Dolphin* and that she set sail or purposed doing it when the frigate left that port. We have received no later intelligence regarding this vessell, and we are under no small anxiety on her account.

40. We have registered on this ship two bulses of diamonds, Nos. 3 and 4, marked TM, value V.Rs. 15,796-15-0 and consigned by Mr. Thomas Motte to Mr. Charles Bathurst in London.  
26 March.  
A register of them goes a number in the packet.

41. The ballance of cash in the Muxadabad treasury on the 31st ultimo was *sicca* Rs. 3,21,568-0-17-2 and the ballance of cash in our treasury this day was C.Rs. 35,62,705-14-3.

42. The invoice of the cargo laden on board this ship amounts to C.Rs. 12,99,100.

We are,  
Honorable Gentlemen,  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Thos. Kelsall /  
Charles Floyer / John Reed /  
Frans. Hare.

Fort William,  
2nd April 1771.

### *Postscript*

1. Since closing our letter we have received an address from Major Watson to our Board with two reports and plans of the cantonments at Dinapore and Burrampore, which we beg leave to send you as papers of the packet. From these you will find that the cantonments at Dinapore may be considered as compleated, and those at Burrampore will be so by the end of the year. And

we have the pleasure to acquaint you that the three redoubts erected at Budge Budge are entirely compleat, and the old fort there by a small alteration and by clearing the ditch is become very formidable ; and from their advantageous situation and vicinity to each other, and the number of cannon they can bring to bear on any vessels sailing up the river, we think it scarcely possible that such a post can be forced without imminent risk to an enemy, and at all events give the greatest security to the Presidency by retarding their operations. We must likewise inform you that great progress has been made on your fortifications since the engineer's last report considering the immense difficulty we have found in procuring a sufficient number of coolies owing to the mortality which has in general fallen on the lower ranks of people in Bengal.

2. Mr. Bolts's attornies tendered to us as a Court of Appeals 2 petitions in appeal from the Mayor's Court in the suit instituted by Mr. Bolts against Mr. Edward Baber as Sheriff and Mr. C. Wm. Boughton as Assistant Secretary to the Select Committee, the first for falsifying the records of the Court of Sessions, the 2nd for signing his name to a defamatory libel against Mr. Bolts. But as the suits were dismissed by the Mayor's Court at the end of the year 1768 for want of evidence and as the Charter expressly says that all appeals must be tendered within 14 days after the cause is decided in the Mayor's Court, we refused to accept of the petitions. The attornies have upon this refusal drawn up two petitions of appeal to His Sacred Majesty which have passed our Court of Appeals and will, we suppose, go home by this ship. As they are very voluminous we have not time to send copies of them now, but they shall be transmitted by the next ship that is dispatched from hence.

3. We have granted by this ship the *Lord Mansfield*, Captain James Angus Commander, the following certificates for money paid into your treasury.

1 set in favour of Captain James Angus, Commander of the ship	
<i>Lord Mansfield</i> , payable to himself . . . . .	9,000
1 set in favour of Edward Wilson, Chief Mate of the <i>Lord</i>	
<i>Mansfield</i> , Captain James Angus, Commander, payable to	
himself . . . . .	2,886
	<hr/>
	11,886
	<hr/>

Fort William,  
12th April 1771.

We are,  
Honorable Gentlemen,  
Your most faithfull humble servants,  
(Signed) John Cartier / Thos. Kelsall /  
Chas. Floyer / John Reed / Fras. Hare.

[P.S.] We beg leave to enclose a number in the packet copy of a letter addressed to us by Mr. Mestayer. The poor man's representation we believe to be true and we could wish to see some attention paid to his case.

*List of Papers regarding Mr. Bolts, sent home  
numbers in the packet by Lord Mansfield*

No. 1. Copy of papers regarding Mr. Bolts obtained from the Mayor's

Court.

*Papers from the Secretary's Office*

2. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Board dated 21st February 1766.
3. Mrs. Bolts's letter to Mr. Bolts dated 6 November 1766.
4. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Board dated 10 November 1766.
5. Mr. Sage's letter to the Board dated 11 December 1766.
6. Mr. Bolts's letter to Mr. Droz, Secretary, dated 27 April 1767.
7. Mr. Bolts's letter to Mr. Gentil dated 19th June 1767.
8. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Board dated 29 August 1767.
9. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Secretary dated 29 August 1767.
10. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Mayor's Court dated 8 October 1767.
11. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Board dated 9th October 1767.
12. Mr. Morris's letter to the Secretary dated 12th October 1767.
13. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Board dated 18th October 1767.
14. Mr. Bolts's letter to Messrs. Becher and Alexander dated 18 October 1767.
15. The Governor's minute in answer to Mr. Bolts's letter, 5 November 1767.
16. Mr. Floyer's minute dated 5th November 1767.
17. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Secretary dated 21st November 1767.
18. The President's minute dated 10 December 1767.
19. Letter from Secretary of Select Committee to the Board dated 15 April 1768.
20. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Governor dated 16th April 1768.
21. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Board dated 18th April 1768.
22. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Board dated 2nd May 1768.
23. Colonel Smith's minute, 4th May 1768.
24. Mr. Bolts's address to the Grand Jury dated 27 May 1768.
25. Proceedings of the General Quarter Sessions held 27 May 1768 together with Mr. Bolts's protest thereon.
26. Mr. Fenwick's letter to the Board dated 28 May 1768.
27. Mr. Bolt's letter to the Board dated 27 July 1768.
28. Translation of a letter from Mahomed Reza Khan to the President, in Consultation 15th August 1768.
29. Mr. Sparks (Attorney at Law): his letter to Mr. Boughton dated 18 August 1768.
30. Mr. Boughton's letter to the Board, read Consultation 26 August 1768.
31. Mr. Baber's letter to the Board, in Consultation 26 August 1768.
32. Summons served on Mr. Bolts dated 26 August 1768.
33. Bill of complaint against Mr. Bolts, in Consultation 29 August 1768.
34. Mr. Bolts's letter to Mr. Henchman, Assistant Secretary, dated 29 August 1768.
35. Mr. Irwin's attestation dated 5 September 1768.
36. Mr. Baber's letter to the Mayor's Court dated 5 September 1768.
37. The Board's letter to the Governor dated 5 September 1768.
38. Mr. Verelst's letter to the Board dated 5 September 1768.
39. Mr. Baber's deposition, 5 September 1768.



40. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Board dated 12 September 1768.
41. Register of Mayor's Court letter to the Board dated 13 September 1768.
42. Mr. Kelsall's letter to the Governor dated Dacca 18 September 1768.

*Papers from the Select Committee Office*

43. Mr. Bolts's letter to the President and members of the Select Committee dated 11th February 1767.
44. The Secretary of the Select Committee to Mr. Bolts, 20 April 1767.
45. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Governor and Council, 25 August 1767.
46. The Secretary of the Select Committee's letter to the attornies of Mr. Jno. Johnstone dated 13 October 1767.
47. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Secretary of the Select Committee, 13 April 1768.
48. Mr. Bolts's letter to       do.       do.       14 April 1768.
49. The Secretary of the Select Committee to Mr. Bolts, 15 April 1768.

(Per *Mansfield*)

50. Mr. Bolts's letter to the Secretary of the Select Committee, 16 April

23

## SECRET LETTER DATED 30 AUGUST 1771

*Endeavours to settle disputes between the English and the French in Bengal—plan of the ditch round Chandarnagar.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since we had the honor of addressing you from this Department by the *Mansfield* under date the 2nd/12 April 1771, we have received a letter from Sir John Lindsay, His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary to settle the dispute between the English and French nations in India, desiring us to furnish him with such plans of Chandernagore and other materials as might enable him to form a judgement of the causes of the differences between our Presidency and the trading subjects of France in Bengal ; and we have accordingly sent to that gentleman a copy of the plan of the ditch round Chandernagore, together with such papers and extracts from our Consultations as we deemed necessary and essential towards his gaining a full knowledge and insight into the causes of the several disputes which had arisen betwixt the French and us.

2. These were accompanied by a letter from us explanatory of the rise and progress of those several differences and pointing the exagérations made by the French in the several articles of complaint, which however trifling they

might appear to any other nation have been set by them in the most serious and alarming point of view.

3. Since the date of this letter some fresh matter of altercation has taken place between the French and us, which has according to their usual custom been heightened to the utmost, and set forth in a style and manner calculated to raise it into consequence.

4. In the present situation of the Company where the French are in wait to lay hold of every trifling circumstance, notwithstanding our utmost caution, disputes are unavoidable. We have however taken pains to settle them in an amicable manner and have strictly enjoined your servants to be careful of giving the least molestation to any persons under the French protection.

We have the honor of being,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most obedient and faithful  
servants,

John Cartier / Wm. Aldersey / Charles  
Floyer / Sam. Middleton / Tho. Kelsall /  
John Reed.

Fort William,  
the 30th August 1771.  
(Per *Stag* frigate)

## 24

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 30 AUGUST 1771

*Trade and shipping: difficulties in providing opium investment; financial position of Fort St. George, Canton etc., relative to investment—progress made by the Company's filatures; skill of local workmen in learning the new method of reeling silk—currency regulations—changes in personnel of the Council—Barker's acceptance of a lakh of rupees from Shah Alam—restoration of Bolts as Alderman—sundry matters relating to service, accounts, etc.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. His Majesty's frigate the *Stag* being on the point of departure from this place to the Presidency of Madras, from whence she came round on the 19th of last month to refit and victual, we take the opportunity of sending by her a short address containing a summary detail of the state of your affairs in Bengal, as we are informed she will return to Europe very shortly.

2. The *Morse* arrived at Fort St. George the 10th of April, and in this river the 18th ultimo. We purpose dispatching her the first ship of the approaching season, and as the goods are ready for sending on board, we hope that she will receive her first dispatches some time in the month of October.

3. Captain Horne, her Commander, died here about a fortnight after his arrival and has been succeeded by the Chief Mate, Mr. John Watson, who has been sworn into the command.

4. The *Ponsborne* arrived at Madras on the 10th of July and imported here on the 22nd ultimo. She brought a General Letter under date the 4th January 1771. By the *Stag* frigate we also received your commands dated 1st February 1771.

5. From Madras we have advice that the *Portland* arrived at that Presidency from Bombay on the 2nd June and was dispatched for Europe on the 23rd July with the remainder of their investment.

6. We have the pleasure of informing you that the following ships arrived safe at Fort St. George, the *Queen* and *York* on the 14th, and the *Salisbury* on the 15th June, and the *Grosvenor* on the 1st July. Having at this time no advice of any other of the Coast and Bay ships being arrived on the Coast and the season being far advanced we begin to be anxious for their safety.

7. By a French packet which arrived on the 10th instant from the Mauritius, we received the very disagreeable news of the entire loss of the ship *Verelst*, Captain Compton, on the windward side of that island the 25th of last April. From the account in Captain Compton's letter which came by the French vessel and extracts of the Chief Mate's journal, it appears that this misfortune arose from an error in the ship's reckoning occasioned by the uncommon haziness of the weather for some days before, which prevented them from ascertaining their longitude and variation by their azymuth and made them mistake the island of the Mauritius for that of Diergo Rayes<sup>1</sup>. By the assistance of boats from the shore and rafts made on board, 101 of the crew and passengers were saved, the remainder, being 25 in number, perished. The survivors were most humanely and kindly treated by the Chevalier de les Roches, the French Governor.

8. We are sorry to observe from the situation of the ship where she struck, which was on a ridge of breakers nearly five miles from the shore in an extreme high surf, the impossibility of saving any part of her valuable cargo as no boats could come within half a mile of her; the people on board at the greatest peril of their lives saved themselves on rafts through the surf, when they were taken up by the French boats in smooth water. We are extremely doubtful as to the fate of the packet, Captain Compton being totally silent on that subject, but do imagine it was neither destroyed or attempted to be brought on shore; but from private intelligence it would seem that many letters were thrown up among the rocks, and we wish some part of our dispatches may not have fallen into the hands of the French.

9. Duplicates of such books and papers as did not go home in duplicate by the *Worcester* are preparing and shall be sent by the first ship after they can be finished.

10. Your orders for providing an investment of opium and piece goods for the establishment of Balambangan did not arrive with us till the 19th March. The lateness of the season made it impossible for us to procure a larger quantity of the former article than 64 chests, which was the whole in the place, and that at a very high advanced price; but as it appeared to us that this article was indispensably necessary to be sent, we thought it most consistent to your interest to give the market price as many others were willing to give the same for it, and such of the sortments of the cloths as were not procurable were supplied by others that came the nearest to them in quality

and appearance. These were laden on board the *Syren* sloop and dispatched to Madras in April last, where we have the pleasure to find she is arrived safe.

11. As our supply of opium fell so short of your indent we requested the Fort St. George Presidency to endeavour to make up the deficiency from what might have been carried to that market, but they were unable to procure a single chest of that article.

12. The Fort Marlbro Presidency sent the *Experiment* schooner to Fort St. George and Bengal for a supply of stores, and also requested the sum of 40,000 dollars in specie for the use of their trade. As the scarcity of that specie of bullion rendered a compliance with their demand impracticable on our parts, we desired the Presidency of Madras to raise the sum and to draw on us for the amount, but they have informed us that it is equally beyond their power.

13. The *Experiment* went round to Fort St. George to receive her final dispatches for Fort Marlbro' in April last, but we have as yet had no public information of her arrival at that port.

14. The *Portland* must have advised you of the state of the resources and treasury at Fort St. George, and that they are in hopes they shall have no occasion to draw on us for supplies during this season.

15. The factory at Canton have informed us of the condition of their investment and finances and have urged us to send them a supply of cash. We have replied to their letter assuring them it is entirely out of our power to comply with their request and for those reasons which have annually been repeated to them for some years back.

16. As the 3 lacs of rupees sent to Bombay in specie by the *Vereist* added to the drafts on us and bills in their favour did not make up the entire sum they required, they have drawn on us for a sum rather exceeding the deficiency which we have duly answered.

17. They have lately informed us that exclusive of their own resources they shall require 14 lacs of rupees for the exigencies of the ensuing season and desired us to supply them with that sum and as large a proportion of it in specie as possible. We have given orders to the Council of Revenue at the City to endeavour to procure from the merchants there bills to as large an amount as possible in their favour that we may not entirely exhaust these provinces of their small remains of specie, and we have requested them to raise as great a part of their demand as they can at Bombay and Surat by drafts on Bengal.

18. On an application from the Bombay Presidency for some manufacturers skilled in the saltpetre business to instruct the people of Scindy<sup>2</sup>, who by their ignorance in making that article deprived them of the opportunity of providing an annual quantity, we directed our factory at Patna to endeavour to engage some persons by advantageous offers; but their endeavours have not been attended with success owing to the invincible antipathy inherent in these people toward quitting their native country however tempted by promises or rewards.

19. We are sorry to inform you that Mr. Aubert, one of the superintendants of the filatures who took his passage on the *Morse*, died at Madras. It



was intended he should have resided at Rungpore; and that no time might be lost in attempting to introduce the new mode of winding at that *aurung*, Mr. Phipps, one of the assistants at Cossimbuzar, being represented to us as properly qualified for that service, has been appointed thither in the room of Mr. Aubert.

20. We have the pleasure to acquaint you from the testimony of Mr. Wiss and Mr. Robinson, the two other superintendants, that the natives are found to be very expert in reeling silk at one operation from the pod. The principal difficulty at present subsisting to the success of the new mode is the very high rate at which the natives require to be paid for their silk pods; but no endeavours on our part have been wanting to remove this impediment, and we hope with perseverance and due encouragement it will in time be perfectly effected. The docility of the natives will, we hope, render the appointment of more superintendants or spinners from Europe unnecessary, as the great object of its introduction amongst the natives has been accomplished by the endeavours of the two gentlemen at present with us.

21. Buildings for holding 100 furnaces each are erecting at Cossimbuzar, Bauleah and Commercolly, and one of the same size is to be built at Rungpore.

22. We have also on Mr. Robinson's recommendation requested the factory at Canton to send to us by the first vessel some of the eggs of the China silkworms, as that gentleman is of opinion that they will greatly mend the breed of our silkworms and improve the quality of the silk.

23. We have desired Fort St. George Presidency to inform us, as soon as it is in their power, of the tonnage they shall want for sending home their investment that we may take not only proper but also early measures for securing tonnage sufficient for the whole of our investment of this season.

24. The present Nabob having received the *phirmaund* and customary dress from His Majesty as *soubah* of these provinces, he was invested therewith with the usual ceremonies on the 4th day of July and our Chief and Council at Moorshedabad attended on the occasion.

25. At the period for entering into new contracts for victualing the army and furnishing draft and carriage bullocks, the same was publicly advertised and proposals were received from three different persons; and those of the late contractor Mr. Geo. Graham being the lowest, the proper articles for performing it were entered into and mutually executed.

26. The subject of the coinage has been lately under our consideration, and after perusing your orders on this head and also on that had appeared on our Consultations since the year 1766, we came to a determination that the following regulations should take place.

27. That the 12 *sun siccas* or the *siccas* for the present year should be coined in our several mints in the manner as the 11 *sun*s were last year, and that the annual coinage of *siccas* should hereafter continue to be marked as usual with the current year of the King's reign.

28. That the 11 *sun siccas* should not fall in their value but should pass on the same footing as *siccas* of the present and every future year throughout all the provinces, and that whenever new *siccas* of any future year should be issued they should not reduce the *siccas* of the former years

as far back as the 11 *suns* to the state of *sonauts*, but they should all be considered and pass in payment at the same value as the *siccas* of the current year, [and] that the 10 *sun siccas* should from the 12th of September next pass as a *sonaut* rupee and that the other species of rupees should pass and be received as heretofore.

29. In this case we consider the *sicca* rupee as the established standard coin of the country by which the value of others would be always determined, and consequently by depriving this standard of its annual fluctuations, the most essential part of the plan would be carried into execution.

30. In the prosecution of this scheme we found it impracticable to raise those *siccas* which had already become *sonauts* to their original value, and almost equally so to recall them in our treasury for recoinage as an attempt toward it would raise their *batta* beyond their real value, and the purchase of them at the arbitrary prices fixed by the owners would be attended with too considerable an expence.

31. We therefore reverted only as far back as the 11 *suns* or the *siccas* of the year 1770, which still remained *siccas* as no 12 *suns* had been coined; and we issued orders that although 12 *suns* would be coined, yet the 11 *suns* should still circulate at the *batta* of 16 per cent not only during the present year but for all future ones, although the regular succession of years would continue to be marked on the rupees annually coined in our mint.

32. By this method as the number of the *sonaut* rupees would gradually diminish by the annual recoinage of part of them into *siccas* without the heretofore annual increase by the *siccas* becoming *sonauts*, it is natural to conclude that they will in a short course of years be entirely recoined; and such *siccas* as through circulation for a length of time may become greatly deficient in weight will of course have so much deducted in payments and receipts on that account.

33. As by this method the annual marking the year of the King's reign on the *sicca* rupees would be attended with no inconveniences and as an ensign of royalty would be preserved, the abolishing of which would undoubtedly give umbrage to the King, we thought it most prudent to adopt the measure.

34. We have fixed on the 12th day of next month for the issuing of 12 *sun siccas* and for these regulations taking place throughout the provinces.

35. As by your orders to the Commissioners the second of our Board was to be Chief of the Muxadabad Council, in case it was judged expedient to appoint a member of the Board to that post, we recalled Mr. Alexander for that purpose, and directed Mr. Jekyll, the next in rank to Council, to succeed him, and accordingly Mr. Alexander took charge of the Moorshedabad Chiefship from Mr. Middleton, who returned to his seat at our Board.

36. We have since our last advices suffered a diminution of our Board by the death of Mr. Hare, one of its members. We immediately directed Mr. Jekyll to hold himself in readiness for his return to the Presidency as soon as he should receive a summons as we daily expected advices from Europe.

37. And accordingly, as the *Ponsborne* packet brought no orders or regulations on this head, Mr. Jekyll was recalled to fill up the vacancy, and

Mr. Barwell the 2nd of the Moorshedabad Council was appointed to succeed him.

38. We have lost this season by sickness the following civil servants:— Mr. John Gore, Mr. William Dumbleton, Mr. James Olive and Mr. John Yeo. Messrs Kinnaird and Fitzgerald, writers on the list for last year, taking their passage from Madras on a country vessel were drowned together with 3 cadets when the ship was lost coming into the river.

39. The Honorable Mr. Frederick Stuart<sup>3</sup>, who proceeded to Madras on account of his health, informed us of his intention to take his passage to Europe on the *Egmont*, Captain Mears, as his health had received no benefit from change of air.

40. Mr. Richard Browne, who by your appointment was to have held the post of Standing Secretary after passing the necessary gradations and had been appointed Assistant Secretary to our Board, died in May last after a lingering illness, which for months had rendered him incapable of attendance on the duty of his post.

41. This event having for the present frustrated your intentions of fixing a Standing Secretary at this Presidency, we beg leave to repeat our former sentiments of the necessity of such an appointment, to request that you will be pleased to nominate another person for that employment with such encouragement to himself as may compensate for his being fixed in so laborious and important a post without expectations of being removed to any other.

42. Brigadier General Sir Robert Barker has informed us that after the King's departure from Corah a tender had been made to him in the King's name by Mooneer ul Dowlah of a bill on the Moorshedabad treasury for 1 lac of rupees as a token of His Majesty's regard and in return for the General's great attachment and attention towards him. The General accepted the bill, but acquainted us with the circumstances and desired he might be allowed to retain it till your pleasure was known.

43. This request we could not comply with after the very particular orders you had given in your letter of the 11th November 1768 to the Select Committee on a similar occasion except under the restriction either of its being deposited in the Company's cash to bear an interest of 8 per cent or of the General's executing a bond jointly with 2 securities for the repayment thereof should you not allow him to retain it.

44. We enclose a number in the packet copy of the General's letter to us on the subject, which will fully inform you of his reasons for an acceptance of His Majesty's present; and we beg leave on this occasion to express our satisfaction at the strict propriety of General Barker's conduct towards the King and his Ministers during his residence with the army; and we hope that this mark of the King's approbation also will meet with your approval or confirmation.

45. In consequence of your information that Mr. Bolts had been restored to his seat of Alderman in the Mayor's Court at Calcutta we gave the proper notice to the Court and his name was inserted in the list accordingly.

46. Mr. Guinand arrived at Madras on the *Morse*, but finding that the ship was likely to make a considerable stay at that port and desirous on com-

mencing the business to which he was appointed, he took his passage on a country vessel and arrived at this Presidency in May last, when he was immediately put in charge of his employment.

47. One of the four Italians engaged by Mr. Aubert deserted him at the Cape and two others at Madras. Anty. Berquire, the remaining Italian, and Demarir, the person engaged by the late Mr. Aubert for assisting him in the constructions of the machines for the use of the filatures, thinking their engagements void by the death of Mr. Aubert, we have entered into new agreements with them on the same terms and fixed them in your employ.

48. The widow of Lieutenant Wilson, late of the Madras establishment, made application to that Presidency to be admitted on the list of pensioners. They transmitted here a copy of her address with Mr. Winches' recommendation and Colonel Hart's certificate of his character and good behaviour, and in consequence we have registered her name on the list of pensioners for the bounty established for the disabled officers, widows etc.

49. At the time of modeling the Government according to the plan dictated to us in your letter of the 23rd March 1770, we were unable to carry your order into their fullest extent from the absence of some of the members of the Board, as we judged it a reasonable indulgence to allow them a time for the adjustment of their private concerns before their return to the Presidency; and we were for a time under the necessity of superintending in our full Board all the different departments. It is with pleasure we acquaint you of our having at length been enabled to carry your plan fully into execution by the return of the members; and the arrangement of the several superintending committees has been made conformably to your orders. Regular days are fixed for holding the Council and committees in their various departments, that the secretaries and clerks may have their proceedings of the week before regularly kept up and laid before us for our approval.

50. Captain Swinney Toone<sup>4</sup> has made an application to us to grant him a second bond for the sum of 10,000 rupees paid into our treasury and for one granted in his name in September last and received by his attorney from the Sub Treasurer. This bond which was transmitted to him at Mongheer has never been received by him and is most likely lost. He has delivered to us depositions (of the circumstances attending the loss) made by him and his attornies before a notary public; and from our books in the Sub Treasurer's Office, it appears this bond was granted at the time mentioned and has not been since brought up for payment or been cancelled. We did not think ourselves authorized to grant him a new bond, but consented to represent his case to you and we now request your orders how to proceed. The depositions of Captain Toone and his attorney go numbers in this packet.

51. Messrs Campbell and Watson having represented to us the necessity they are under of having large sums of money at hand in the prosecution of the important work they have undertaken, and having made application to us to be allowed to pay any sums of money they may have laying by them for that purpose into the treasury to bear the usual interest and be permitted to draw it out as occasion may require, we have complied with their request as it cannot be attended with either inconvenience or disadvantage; but to prevent confusion from the too frequent issues, we have only consented to their



drawing out any part of it monthly, as the consideration of its being on so public and useful an occasion induced us to deviate from the general rule of the service hitherto pursued of granting no interest notes payable in less than twelve months after their respective dates. We hope our conduct in this will meet your approbation.

52. From the prospect we at present have before us, we are in hopes of sending home the whole number of ships destined for this Presidency with full cargoes; and the great disappointment which the diminution of the last year's investment will occasion to you by the loss of the *Verelst* will the more powerfully urge us to exert every effort for increasing the amount of the investment of the present season.

53. The army has been acquainted with the general purport of your new regulations for the relief of disabled and superannuated officers and soldiers and their widows; and the several alterations and statements you have been pleased to point out have accordingly been made in our books.

54. Of the state of the revenues we can only speak at present in general terms as we have not yet received from the Revenue Councils the necessary accounts which may ascertain the deficiencies in the collections of the preceding years or the settlements of the Bengal and Bahar provinces for the present year. We are however in hopes that the care and diligence of the Councils of Revenue and Supervisors will in a great measure lessen those deficiencies in the collections which the famine gave us every cause to apprehend must have been the consequence of that dreadful calamity.

55. The balance of your treasury on the 26th instant was rupees 8,71,914-13-0 and the balance of the cash on this day was rupees 32,470-14-9.

56. We have not received from the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad an account of the balance of their treasury, but we shall have the pleasure of sending it by the next dispatches.

We have the honor of being,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most obedient and faithful  
servants,

John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / W.  
Aldersey / Thos. Kelsall / Charles Floyer /  
John Reed.

Fort William,  
30th August 1771.

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 31 AUGUST 1771

*Shah Alam determined to proceed to Delhi; amity maintained by the Company at the time of parting; money and troops offered by the Vazir—grant of Allahabad by Shah Alam to the Vazir resented by the Company; the Vazir persuaded to permit the Company's garrison to continue there, and also give up his claims to Chunargarh—death of Ahimad Khan Bangash; Shah Alam's attack on his capital Furrukhabad and accommodation with his successor*

*to pay a few lakhs as nazarana—an account of the Marathas at Delhi and their conflict with Zabita Khan—Vazir's troops which had been sent to help the Rohillas against the Marathas withdrawn from Cawnpore—reported reinforcements to Mauritius.*

[.] O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Captain Deane of the *Stag* frigate being about to sail for Madrass, from whence he imagines he shall shortly proceed for Europe, we would not, Honorable Sirs, miss the opportunity of relating to you the most material events which have taken place since the dispatch of the *Lord Mansfield*<sup>1</sup> and the present situation of your political affairs. Accompanying you will please to receive a duplicate of the letter transmitted you by that ship.

2. You were made acquainted that the whole of the transactions of the Mhorattahs at the capital had the entire sanction of His Majesty's approbation, and of his fixed determination to depend upon them alone for the re-establishment of his dignity; and this he was induced to from a thorough conviction that he had no encouragement to expect from either the English or the Nabob  
 20 April. Sujah Dowlah to a scheme so apparently incompatible with their interests. In the several conferences General Barker (who had arrived at Allahabad on the 25 March) held with His Majesty, it appears that he used every argument which reason could suggest to dissuade him from the intended expedition, and represented to him the consequences that would probably attend it in the most lively and forcible colours; but His Majesty has remained inflexible in his resolution of joining the Mhorattahs, and betrayed upon this occasion a spirit of perseverance which seemed to baffle every opposition. It was with the utmost difficulty even that the General could prevail upon him to delay his march untill he should receive answers to the letters he had written to us upon this subject. We had no means left then to prevent his departure but by a detention of his person, and this we did not look upon ourselves as authorized to do independant of its being totally repugnant to our inclinations, for we were well aware that such a step would have very little influence on the conduct of the Mhorattahs, who would in that case most probably set the *Shawzadda* or any other of the young princes in their possession upon the throne, and we should subject ourselves by this conduct to the future intrigues and resentment of an incensed monarch unjustly deprived of freedom. To part with His Majesty on the terms of amity and moderation seemed to us the most proper plan to pursue, that the favorable impressions implanted on his mind from the attention we have ever paid to his welfare in those points we have judged conducive to it (consistent with our own security and the pacifick measures we have invariably followed) may render him upon future occasions averse to any scheme adopted by the Hindostan powers which may tend to disturb the tranquility of our possessions. We were but too sensible of the additional weight His Majesty's presence would give to the councils of the Mhorattahs [*sic*] chiefs; but any resolution of restraining him might be productive of events equally important, and no doubt would merit your disapprobation,

3. With these sentiments then, as the King's separation appeared now unavoidable, we gave it in charge to General Barker, as a proof of our gratitude, fidelity, and affection to his Royal person, to attend him to the frontiers of his provinces, and pay him every possible mark of respect due to his dignity and the reputation of the Company ; and we have the pleasure to inform you

June 4. that he was made exceedingly happy by this attention on our part, and has signified to us his approval in the most sincere and expressive terms. He had made it a particular request that he

17 May. might be permitted to retain the 4 three-pounder field pieces attached to his battalions, in which we readily acquiesced, as the circumstance in itself could be of little or no consequence to your interests, and withholding our assent might have been the occasion of his parting with us in disgust, which it was our intention to prevent.

4. As the Nabob Sujah Dowlah was equally interested with us in the prospect of the King's departure, he hastened to the presence with the hope

LR. No. 66, 67. that his personal solicitations, and the influence he had acquired in His Majesty's councils, would have been of sufficient weight to induce him either to delay or abandon the scheme altogether, but they were equally without effect. The Vizier however thought it becoming his duty to assist the King with money and troops to forward in

June 4th LR 69, some measure what he could not prevent. Many and various have been the plans laid down by this unsteady

June 23 LR 73. Prince to advance his own views behind the mask of soli-  
August 27 LR 89. citude for the interests of his Royal master, and each for the

moment has appeared the result of serious deliberation ; but as every account of them has hitherto proved contradictory and been the subject of much fruitless negotiation, and as our enlarging upon systems that have no probability of ever being carried into execution would swell this address to an unnecessary length, we take the liberty of referring you for particulars to our proceedings to be forwarded by the *Morse*, the first of your own ships for dispatch.

5. But there is one circumstance that we cannot delay mentioning, which

June 23. betrays a fresh instance of the intriguing spirit of the Vizier, and will, we imagine, have some influence on our political system. We were informed by a letter from General Barker, bearing date the

LR. 73. 23rd May, that His Majesty in consideration of his being furnished with money and a body of troops to accompany him in his expedition had consented to deliver over to His Excellency the possession of Allahabad Fort, a point the latter had been long labouring to accomplish ; and this negotiation had been so secretly carried on that we received no kind of intelligence of it untill the terms of the cession were actually determined upon.

6. A transaction of so much consequence in which we were so principally concerned, so opposite to the professions of the King never to engage in any material measure without having first advised with and obtained the concurrence of the Committee, at a time too when our troops were in actual possession of the fort, could not but fill us with astonishment. It was not extraordinary that the Nabob should exert every artifice his policy could dictate to obtain for himself a grant of so much consequence ; but we lamented the ungenerous advantage he had taken of the distracted state of His Majesty's



Shujaud-Daulah





mind, at a time when he seemed to consider everything as trifling when placed in competition with any obstruction to his long favoured expedition. The terms were evidently imposed on him, for though the King has signified to us that it is his pleasure the fort should be delivered up, he has in private expressed himself exceedingly anxious that we should still retain possession of it.

July 27 LR  
No. 83.

7. We desired General Barker to represent to His Majesty in the strongest terms our entire disapprobation of this measure and the consequences that might result from it in his present precarious situation, in the uncertainty of the success of his views, and when perhaps he may be even obligated to return. But if the importunate solicitations of the Vizier to be put in possession of the fort should counteract his endeavours to prevent it, and the King should seem desirous that our garrison be withdrawn, it would then become necessary that he should divert his attention to the Vizier, and remind him of his engagements for the mutual preservation of each other's territories, and demand from him the entire cession of the post of Chunar Gur, which would serve at once as a place of arms and a barrier to our own possessions, and might be of the most material consequence to both, should we be compelled to employ our army without these provinces in defence of his.

LS No. 27.

8. As we were fully convinced of the many advantages that would attend the acquisition of this important and almost impregnable fortress, and this being the only opportunity we shall probably ever have of obtaining possession of it, we were the more readily induced to wish that this proposition would meet with the Vizier's compliance; and we have the satisfaction of acquainting you that from the latest advices the General has given us every reason to imagine that he shall in his present disposition be able to effect it. He had so far accommodated matters and obviated the difficulties which necessarily had arisen from the subject between the King and Vizier as to induce the latter to relinquish all right to Chunar Gur, provided the cession of Allahabad should be publicly circulated in the Empire, a single officer on his part suffered to reside in the fort, and his colours permitted to fly with ours upon the gates. By this agreement His Majesty will be relieved from the anxiety and apprehension he laboured under, of the apparent necessity there was for our forces to evacuate the garrison, as they will now remain there as guarantees to his own and the Nabob's dominions. The General has proceeded at the Vizier's earnest request to Fayzabad finally to conclude these terms, and we flatter ourselves that we shall be able to give you by our next address the pleasing information of our being in actual possession of that valuable fortress. We thought it necessary to say this much to enable you to form some idea of our discussion of this important transaction, especially as this will probably be the first advices you will receive.

27 August LR 92,  
94.

9. In pursuance to the first resolve of His Majesty to march on the 17th April<sup>2</sup>, we are sorry to inform you that he accordingly quitted Allahabad on that day leaving in our hands two of the young princes as the best pledges of his faith, and proceeded by slow marches through the Corah province. He was attended by the General to within seven coss of its boundary, when he thought it necessary to request

LR 64.

His Majesty's permission to return, and he had his final audience of leave on the 30th June. He left with the King the two Royal battalions after withdrawing the European officers, four pieces of artillery, and 800 rounds of ammunition. His Majesty has on this occasion given us the strongest assurances of his affection and attachment to the English nation, and the grateful sense he entertains of the ready assistance they have at all times afforded him, that he shall ever consider any attempt of the Hindostan powers to disturb the tranquility of the Company's provinces as a direct act of disobedience to the Royal authority, and will meet with his severe displeasure. We on our parts intreated him to be convinced of the loyalty and attachment we retain for his person and family, and of the readiness with which we will receive and protect His Majesty, should any reverse of fortune compel him once more to return to his provinces.

10. At this period the death of Ahmed Cawn Bunguish, the Patan Chief, seemed a favourable circumstance to the King's affairs. Accordingly he lost not a moment upon the first intelligence of this event in endeavouring to avail himself of it. He dispatched a body of troops with all expedition to take possession of Furruckabad, the Patan capital; but by some unaccountable delay in the officer who commanded them<sup>3</sup>, Mussepher Jung, the grandson and heir of Ahmed Cawn<sup>4</sup>, had time sufficient to collect his adherents and garrison the city. By the latest advices we learn the King had proceeded with the main body of his army to Furruckabad; but there was then great probability that all differences would be speedily adjusted between them upon consideration that Mussepher Jung should pay some few lacks to His Majesty to be confirmed in the succession. General Barker in his letter gives it as his opinion that the King's prospect of reaching Delhy is as distant as ever, that the Rhohillas and Patans are ready to oppose his progress, and his sole dependance now is on the assistance the Mhorattahs may afford him, who it must be confessed have hitherto shewn very little attention to his interests.

11. We informed you in our last address of the inactive state in which the Mhorattahs remained at Delhy, and that Ram Chunder Gunnes had been superceded in the command by Bysagee Pundit. Since then the different chiefs have been engaged in continual dispute and intrigue. Ram Chunder has had the address to bring over many of the troops and chiefs to his party, while Bysagee enjoys only the ensigns of authority. Their army in the meantime has continued in the neighbourhood of Delhy and, except some incursions they made towards Panipat and into Zabta Cawn's country, have done nothing. They agreed to deliver up the fort and city of Delhy to Syef-ul-dine, the King's servant, for 10 lacs of rupees. Part of this sum has been paid them, and security given for the remainder. Yet they still keep possession of the fort, and in this give a striking instance of their duplicity and faithlessness. They increase their demands upon the King as he approaches nearer towards the capital, revive ancient claims of ideal [?] tribute, and it is even said have used their endeavours to reconcile him to Gaziodin Cawn, that enemy to the Royal family and to Cossim Ally Cawn, whose old adherent Sumroo has actually quitted the Jauts to enter into their service.

12. Their conduct towards Zabta Cawn, the son of Nudjib ul Dowlah, has

been equally various and inconsistent. Some of the chiefs have sent troops to plunder his country, and fomented the differences with his brothers, whilst others again had wrote strongly in his favor to the King.

LR No. 79, 83, 86. This young man has exhibited the greatest prudence and spirit in rising superior to all his difficulties. The lenity and kindness with which he treats his rebellious brothers after having reduced them to their allegiance, so contrary too to the politicks of Hindostan, does him great honor. He is at present employed in the collection of his revenues and the settlement of his country, and seems to be the only prince so far to the westward who is in any capacity to make head against the growing power of the Mhorattahs, whom he has frequently, and with some success, opposed.

13. We acquainted you per *Europa*<sup>5</sup> that the Vizier had taken possession of the lines of Cawnpoor. Upon some disgust he had taken at His Majesty's conduct towards him relative to some grants on the Corah province made by the latter to Nudjib Cawn, which he looked upon as highly improper and disgraceful, and upon the shock which was given his pride by the Rohillah Chief Hafiz Rahmet declining a conference, His Excellency has thought proper to withdraw his troops, though he gave it out at the time that his only reason for evacuating that part was its insecurity. His return to Fayzabad with his

LR 77. army has been productive of this good effect ; it has put an intire stop to the rebellious proceedings of several of the zemindars of the northern and eastern districts who had withheld their rents, and were preparing to act defensively. Since the failure of his influence with His Majesty to prevent his journey, and from the time he quitted Cawnpoor, His Excellency has led the most idle and luxurious life imaginable. All access

LR 90. is denied to him, and his chiefs are forbid his presence, who are consequently much disgusted. He passes the whole of his time in childish amusements, and in the company of his women, and his disposition seems once more to have returned to that bias for luxury and dissipation which displayed itself before he loosed the reins of his ambition. In consequence of a promise he made to His Majesty of reinforcing him with a large detachment in case he should march beyond the provinces, he purposes sending to him with all expedition a body of 4 or 6,000 men. He has of late

LR 88. expressed himself extremely desirous of paying a visit to the Presidency when the rains are subsided, and we have signified to him that in case the present state of affairs in his country will admit of his absence we shall be very glad to see him ; but we are in hopes that this project is of equal stability with the rest, or that some accident will intervene to prevent his carrying his design into execution, for we are not at all ambitious of the company of so troublesome and volatile a guest, and will at all events endeavour to prevent it.

14. We have received from the Presidency of Fort St. George several extracts of intelligence regarding the French at the Island, and from which it

27 May LR No. 65. appears very considerable reinforcement of troops have been brought out this year, and it is believed many more are yet

27 July LR No. 80, 82. expected. These, added to the state of the strength which

27th Augt. LR No. 87. they before had, with the number of shipping in their principal port of the Mauritius, amount to a full conviction of the readiness the French were in to act according to advices or orders they



might receive from the Court of France. How far their designs may be protracted from the apparent pacifick dispositions of the two Courts, it is not in our power to say; but this may be depended on as a certainty, that it is impossible for them to subsist such a considerable body of military troops much longer at the Islands, and they must from necessity, if from no other reason, disperse them among their different settlements in India. Whatever may be their designs you may depend on our keeping a watchful eye over them, or whether actual war or solid peace prevails, we shall keep ourselves in such a state as may best answer every exigency.

15. We will now relate the changes which have taken place at this Board since the departure of the *Lord Mansfield*. Soon after her dispatch, the urgency of the occasion requiring a meeting of the Committee, and the absence of Messrs Alexander and Middleton together with the indisposition of Mr. Russell

20 April. preventing their attendance, the President was obliged to summon to his assistance Messrs Aldersey and Kelsall, who were after the usual forms admitted as occasional members. Mr. Middleton's

18 July. return from the Durbar on the 18th<sup>6</sup> ultimo enabling us to hold a meeting of such members as are appointed by the Company to form a Committee rendered it unnecessary for us to require the

27 July. further attendance of Messrs Aldersey, Kelsall and Floyer to the duties of this department, as Mr. Russell's illness has since encreased upon him, Mr. Aldersey was again summoned to his seat at this Board.

16. The death of Mr. Richard Brown happening after a lingering disorder [...] July. Mr. William Hosea has been appointed our Secretary.

We are,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,  
John Cartier / Samuel Middleton /  
William Aldersey.

Fort William,  
the 31 August 1771. (Per *Stag*)

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1771

*Shipping news—supply of saltpetre to the Danish and the Dutch Companies—regulations for maintaining uniformity in the Company's coinage—deportation of Lieutenant Osborne—Barker's request to retain Shah Alam's gift—sundry matters relating to service, investment, charter party etc.—amenability of civilians in cantonments to courts martial.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last address, duplicate of which we have now the honor to transmit to you, was under date the 30th of August and sent under the care of Joseph

Dean Esqre. commander of His Majesty's frigate the *Stag*, who sailed from hence for the Coast a few days after the date of our letters, and we are informed arrived at Madras on the 17th September last.

2. Since that letter we have received your several advices of the 8th and 22nd March by the *Lord North*, the 4th January in duplicate by the *Asia*, the 22nd March in duplicate by the *Spike*, the 4th January, 8 and 22nd March in duplicate and triplicate by the *Rochford*.

3. The *Asia* unfortunately struck on Mud Point and received some small damage in her bottom, which occasioned her being brought up to town that every necessary repair might be given her before any of the Honorable Company's cargo should be laden on board.

4. The very great sickness which prevailed on board the *Morse* at the time we had fixed for her departure rendered her crew too weak to prepare her for sailing or even to clear her of all her outward bound cargo; in the intermediate space of time we resolved on dispatching them in company. The *Morse* therefore has original dispatches, and the duplicates you will receive by the *Ponsborne*.

5. As the *Morse* is of such large burden as to require much dead weight to make her fit for sea, we have at the request of the Captain laden on her an additional quantity of 800 bags of saltpetre and 900 maunds of red wood on condition they were to be freighted free.

6. We have the satisfaction to inform you of the safe arrival of His Majesty's ships *Northumberland*, *Buckingham* and *Warwick* at Fort St. George on the 2nd of September; and the *Oxford*, who was left at Joanna to repair her rudder, arrived there also on the [...] September.

7. We have received information of the arrival of the *Seahorse* and *Thames* at Fort Marlbro on the 30th May and 14th July last, and of the departure of the former from thence for China on the 30th June.

8. By letters from Bombay we have also been acquainted with the arrival of the *Clive* at that Presidency on the 12th August last.

9. The Madras Presidency having made application to us for two ships to carry home their investment, and it being beyond our power to comply therewith unless by distressing ourselves, we immediately dispatched a letter to Bombay requesting them to send a ship round to Madras to take in the remainder of their investment, if they should not have sufficient cargoes for all their ships, and desiring the most speedy answer that in case of their inability we might contrive by lading surplus tonnage on those we dispatch immediately to Europe to send a ship half laden to fill up at Madras at the end of the season.

10. We were also unable to comply with the desire of the Madras Council for sending them a ship in time to fill up and receive her dispatches before the 15th of October. For at the receipt of their letter only the *Morse* and *Ponsborne* were arrived, and neither of these could have been made ready soon enough for departing hence in time to receive her dispatches at Fort St. George before the period they had fixed upon. We therefore resolved on sending them a ship to fill up there entirely about the latter end of November, and we have since fixed on the *Lord North* for that purpose.

11. The Danish Company have made an application to us for the same quantity of saltpetre as they received from us last year. We have complied therewith as it could not in the least distress ourselves, and as it is our earnest wish and endeavour to keep up a harmony and friendship with the other European factories by a reciprocal performance of good offices where they do not interfere with or injure the concerns of our employers.

12. The Director and Council at Houghley<sup>1</sup> made a like application to us, but their demand was in their own words "For the proportion of Salt petre that came to their Share", for an explanation of which they referred us to their letter entered in our Consultation of the [...] October 1770, wherein their claim is by us fully discussed and explained. As we have not however been yet favoured with your orders or opinion thereon, and as entering a second time into a dispute on which we wanted only your determination would have been entirely needless, we informed them that they should have the same quantity as had been allotted them the last season and we issued immediate orders to Patna for that purpose.

13. To enforce and support these regulations which we have made in regard to the coinage has been our constant endeavour and care. We were therefore surprised on being informed from Patna that the Moorshedabad *siccas* were considered and passed in payment in the *bazars* at an inferior value to the Patna *siccas*, and that the troops were much dissatisfied at receiving them in payment as they sustained a loss on them of 3 or 4 per cent.

14. As our regulations had forbidden any distinction in the stamp and mark or difference in the weight and fineness of any of the *siccas*, we were at a loss to find out the method by which they distinguished the Patna ones from those of Moorshedabad and directed that 4 of each sort should be sent us from Patna. On the receipt of them we plainly saw a difference in the colour of the silver, which the letter accompanying explained to arise from a different method in the coinage, and by the report of our Mint Master there was found some difference in the fineness. Those of Patna being somewhat above and the Moorshedabad ones being a little below standard.

15. Our immediate orders for having the same method of coining pursued in both mints and injunctions for having the standard and fineness strictly adhered to will, we hope, prevent in future such distinctions in their current value, and remove those obstructions which have been thrown in the way of the new regulations by the *shroffs*, whose chief support and maintenance have been the *batta* and exchange of rupees.

16. The conduct and behaviour of Lieutenant John Osborne<sup>2</sup>, one of your officers, has been throughout a series of circumstances uniformly refractory, disobedient and insulting; and as we have at length been obliged to send him home on the *Ponsborne* in consequence of that power you have delegated to your Governor and Council in cases where it should be deemed necessary for supporting their authority, the subordination of your civil servants, or the regularity, discipline and obedience of your army, we deem it indispensably necessary to enter into a detail of fact relative to this young man that you may be convinced of the propriety of our measures regarding him.

17. Having been found guilty by a general court martial of disrespect to his superior officer he was sentenced to be suspended and deprived of his pay

for one month. Judging himself to have been much aggrieved by this sentence, he turned his resentment towards that officer who he considered to be the cause of it and took an opportunity of insulting and striking him. On General Barker's sending for him to headquarters he excused his not attending on pretence of being indisposed, yet immediately quitted the cantonments and proceeded to Patna factory, some miles distant, where he claimed the protection of the acting Chief representing himself in no shape subject to military law during the continuance of his suspension. He afterwards came down to Calcutta to avoid the parties the General had ordered out to seize him as a deserter from the camp. On his arrival however he was put in arrest by our President and sent up to take his trial for disobedience of orders.

18. On that trial his conduct was carried to the greatest height of impropriety. He delivered in a protest disclaiming the authority of the court; he refused afterwards to proceed in his defence unless the court would admit such papers on his part as they had already deemed inadmissible; he insulted the court in so much that it was added to his other crimes in the sentence. And after having been found guilty of the several charges and sentenced to be cashiered, the General found it absolutely necessary to keep him under a guard to prevent his challenging the members of the court martial. He in that situation threatened to break through the guard, and being afterwards put on board a boat to be brought to the Presidency he would not take with him any of his necessaries, alledging he was forcibly carried off and in hopes of making it a plea for suing the General in a court of civil judicature.

19. To punish so refractory a spirit and to show the army such behaviour would meet with our severest resentment, we sent him immediately on board the *Ponsborne* without making any stop at the Presidency, with directions to the Captain not to allow him to go on shore at any place excepting St. Helena in his passage home.

20. The Captain requesting an indemnification bond in case of his being prosecuted by Mr. Osborne in England for detaining him on board his ship, we have as your Governor and Council granted him one; and we cannot doubt you will approve our proceedings in this affair on a perusal of both his trials, which go a number in the packet, and of those parts of our Consultations which are referred to in the margin.

21. We have since our last address received another letter from General Barker on the subject of the present offered him by the King and enclosing the King's original order to Mooner ul Dowlah for paying the money to the General. Messrs Middleton and Floyer have offered themselves as securities for the General's refunding it, should you disapprove of his accepting it.

22. As we have already spoken very fully upon this matter, and as we enclose an address to you from the General, we shall here beg leave to close the subject with our recommendation of it to your favorable consideration for the reasons we have already assigned.

23. We have received an application from our Chief Engineer Lieutenant Colonel Campbell for leave to resign the service and to return home on account of his health, which has been in a declining state for some months past.

24. We could not deny a request made on such a foundation, though it very sensibly affected us to lose a man of his distinguished abilities. We there-



fore thought it our duty to recommend to him a trial of the effects which the approaching cold season might have on his constitution, as well as to point out to him the necessity, which the probability of an approaching rupture with the French laid us under, of finishing the fortifications with all expedition. And in case of his persisting in his resolution, we desired he would furnish us with accounts of the present state of the fortifications, of what was still requisite for their completion, and of the best method of defence in case of an attack, that nothing might be wanting to direct our efforts for the service of our employers in a point of so serious a nature.

25. We have as yet received no answer from him so that we hope he may yet be induced to alter his resolution. We however thought it necessary to give you the earliest intelligence of the possibility of such an event taking place.

26. In the meantime we must in justice to the merits of Major Lylliman<sup>3</sup>, the next in command in the Engineer Corps, beg leave to mention him as an officer capable of taking on him the charge of the fortifications should Lieutenant Colonel Campbell return home this season, and the latter's recommendation of him in that capacity is a proof of the justness of our observation in his favor.

27. Lieutenant Colonel Campbell has requested also to be allowed the favor of remitting his money home through your cash. But as we do not design to open our treasury for drafts on you this season we were obliged to decline a compliance with his request.

28. Similar applications have been made to us and we have returned the same answer. We have however received monies into the treasury which were offered by several persons on the terms of having the interest notes exchanged for bills, whenever the treasury might be open for the receipt of money in general for bills on England, as by this method we are enabled to replenish our treasury without subjecting ourselves to any conditions which might oblige us to grant bills when it might not be expedient.

29. Your orders regarding the prohibition of private trade to Messrs Wiss and Robinson are so express and positive as not to allow of our complying with an application from them to be allowed equal indulgences of this kind with your covenanted servants, though recommended by the Committee of Commerce. However the assiduity they have shown in promoting the new method of filature inclines us to recommend them to your notice and indulgence.

30. Mr. Henry Guinand has made a like application to us; but as his case is exactly similar to that of the beforenamed gentlemen we have declined a compliance with it, though we cannot but recommend him as a person well worthy of any indulgence you may be pleased to shew him.

31. As by your orders Anthony Berguer and James Demain were to be allowed board and lodging we thought it more convenient and less liable to extra charges to grant them a fixed monthly allowance in lieu of it during their stay in Calcutta and have accordingly allowed the former 35 and the latter 45 rupees per month.

32. Fifteen pounds sterling being stopped out of Anthony Berguer's

salary for the support of his family at Nimes as specified in his agreement with the deceased Mr. Aubert, he has requested payment of the said sum of £15 may be annually continued to Messrs Claud Aubert and sons in order that they may pay it to his family.

33. We had a representation made to us by Major Stainforth setting forth the hardships he had sustained in respect to his pay etc., by the extraordinary length of his voyage in the *Morse* and pleading as an example for an indulgence toward him the Presidency of Madras, who in consideration of the loss of pay to the several officers who came there on the same ship allowed them an indulgence of 4 months' pay.

34. As we were sensible of the justness of his representation and considered that by being on that ship he was at least 7 months longer in his passage than he would have been in any other ship of the season, we consented to grant him an indulgence of 7 months' pay, subject however to be refunded should it meet your disapprobation.

35. We hope that his plea will appear in the same favorable light to you that it did to us, and that you will confirm this favor to an officer who not only suffered in his pay by the extraordinary length of his voyage but was also put to unavoidable expenses beyond what he had expected and more than he could afford to spare.

36. The indulgence granted him of three months' pay more than was allowed to the officers attached to the Coast establishment was on account of the unavoidable detention he experienced at Fort St. George for that space of time

37. The claimants upon the Restitution Fund have addressed us on the subject of the balance of that fund yet due in consequence of their advices from Europe that an order had passed at a General Court of Proprietors for the payment of it. They have requested to be informed whether such orders have been received by us, and when it is proposed they shall be carried into execution.

38. As your orders to us on this head were so particular we in reply informed them that you had not empowered us to pay it off and that we could only refer it to your consideration. Indeed, so strictly did we consider ourselves to be tied up in this case that though they offered to take interest notes for the amount payable in one year, we did not think it proper to come to any agreement with them whatever.

39. The gentlemen of the Presidency of Madras, having represented the distress they were likely to be in from a disappointment of their annual supply of broad cloth for clothing their military, have in consequence sent an indent for the quality of each assortment they stand in need of. This we have given directions to our Import Warehouse Keeper to comply with and intend to forward the same on the *Lord North*.

40. Under cover to us Madras Presidency has enclosed two addresses to your Honorable Court which we now forward a number in the packet.

41. The authority of the civil courts being confined to Fort William and

the factories subordinate to it, and there being a late instance of a court martial held in your garrison of Mongheer being in doubt as to the legality of their trying a prisoner brought before them as he was not a military man nor in the Company's pay, which in fact must exempt numbers at the different garrisons from all laws, as we apprehend the Grand Jury of Calcutta would find no bill of indictment for offences committed there, we beg leave to request your opinion whether all persons whatever residing where you have a garrison without the jurisdiction of a civil court may not be considered as retainers, and of course subject to military law, for otherwise it may happen that many offences must pass unnoticed as cognizable neither by the civil or military courts.

42. By an estimate formed by the Committee of Commerce in September last, the investment expected this season in the ordinary course of provision by your agents and *gomastahs* was computed at fifty-seven lacks of rupees, which left a deficiency of thirteen lacks to complete the amount of your orders to seventy lacks. This deficiency we thought it our duty if possible to make up, or rather indeed to exceed the investment required to compensate for the disappointment you will have sustained by the unhappy loss of the *Verelst*. For this purpose it was absolutely necessary to open our warehouse for private purchases on bond as we found on a clear statement and calculation of our probable receipts and disbursements the impossibility of the state of our treasury admitting of any other mode for such an increase. By that means we hope your expectations will be fully answered, and that the investment by the returning ships of this season will prove as satisfactory to you as could be expected under the difficulties that have been the inevitable consequence of the unhappy calamity this country has sustained from the severity of the famine last year, and indeed we should have despaired being so successful if the state of the foreign markets had afforded any encouragement for making purchases to private merchants.

43. In our letter by the *Stag* frigate we described the progress made in the establishment of the filatures for the introduction of the new mode of winding under the superintendency of Messrs Wiss and Robinson. But although the natives are found to be very expert in taking to it, to bring this into general practice with the natives who are so strongly bigoted to their ancient customs must be a work of time ; but you may rely on the perseverance of our endeavours to give success to a measure that becomes an object of very great importance when we consider the advantages to be expected from it in this valuable branch of your Commercial Department.

44. Messrs Russell and Kelsall, members of our Board, have signified their intentions of returning to England and accordingly received our permission. The former has for a long space of time been severely afflicted with sickness and is now returning to Europe in the hopes of finding that relief which he cannot expect from this climate ; the latter urged by the situation of his affairs at home and hoping also to re-establish a constitution much impaired by his residence in India.

45. We have given information of the intended resignation of these gentlemen to the two senior servants next in succession, Mr. Thomas Lane

and Mr. Richard Barwell, and have directed them to hold themselves in readiness to repair to the Presidency at a short warning.

46. The following gentlemen, writers on this establishment, have arrived on the ships of this season and have been stationed to the several offices at the Presidency:—John Davies, Henry Leake, Willm. Wo[r]dsworth, Augustus Cleveland, William Webber, Willm. Dickson, John Covert, James Chollet, Willm. Douglass, William Chalmers, John Lowis, Henry Scott, Alex. Elliot.

47. The covenants of Messrs John Carmichael and Edward Eyre Burges, writers of the last season, we now send home properly executed.

48. Mr. Lewis Mestayer<sup>4</sup>, who was some time since in your Engineer Corps and was dismissed on account of his misconduct whilst overseer of the works at the Burrampoor cantonments, has made application to us for permission to proceed to England and has most earnestly pleaded for our intercession with you in his favor.

49. The testimonies of our Chief Engineer and of Major Watson in his favor as an able engineer are circumstances that may be thought deserving of your consideration, and we beg leave to recommend him as an object well worthy of your commiseration.

50. The Restitution bond given by Mr. Mestayer has been tendered to him, but we cannot obtain payment; and being convinced of his poverty and total inability to discharge the smallest part thereof, we thought it advisable to direct him to execute it in triplicate and shall transmit it to you a number in the next packet.

51. Mr. Rowland, a cadet who had been broke by the sentence of a court martial for behaving unworthy the character of a gentleman, we have sent home on the *Ponsborne* on the terms of charter party. His passage has been paid for by the Military Pay Master General as also that of all those who go home on their ships on the terms of charter party.

52. Mr. Osborne having made application to us for copies of his court martial, we are under the necessity of referring him to you as the length of the different proceedings would not admit of their being transcribed before the time of closing our dispatches.

53. We have sent home on the *Ponsborne* a Greek named Gregory Mikell, who has been detected in the practise of trepanning and inveighling away our seamen from the settlement, and engaging them in the French service.

54. By the *Morse* on the terms of charter party we have also sent home Thomas Waite who was pointed out in your General Letter of the [...] to our notice. He was in consequence of your orders raised to the rank of cadet, but his behaviour in that station was so very unbecoming and worthless that we could not avoid dismissing him the service and sending him home.

55. We have also sent home on the *Morse* on the terms of charter party the following persons:—John Pearce, Willm. Stone, Samuel Gould, Joseph Hudson, Benjm. Grove, Jacob Waters, James Baine, John Harris, Richard Young, John Biggs, Gregory Mikell. And on the *Ponsborne* the undermentioned persons,



Mr. Thomas Rowland, Mr. John Harris, soldier, whose passage money has been paid for by our Military Pay Master General.

56. The following persons take their passages on these ships:—  
On the *Morse*—Mr. Deffell, Mr. Claude Russell, Mr. Thos. Kelsall, Mr. John May with his wife and child, Mr. Henery Charles Palmer, Grady an infant, Mr. Chester. On the *Ponsborne*—Mr. George Wadley, Mr. Robert Colvil, Mr. John Bird, Miss Elizabeth Thompson. Those who have carried home servants, natives of Bengal, have entered the usual indemnification bonds, which are numbers in the packets.

57. We have licenced on the *Ponsborne* 2 ruby rings valued at £4,050 consigned by Mr. James Lister to John Duval and sons in London, and one diamond valued at rupees 11,000 consigned by the Honorable John Cartier Esqre. to William Brightwell Sumner Esqre. in London.

58. The balance of the Muxadabad treasury on the 10th instant was *sicca* rupees 13,77,041-2-2 and in our treasury this day current rupees 8,35,502-10-3. The balance of cash on this day was current rupees 38,667-11-0.

59. We now send 3 gold *mohars*, 6 *siccas*, and 6 Arcot rupees, in conformity to your orders taken indiscriminately from the mint, and sealed by the President with his seal a number in the packet.

Fort William,  
November 15th, 1771.

We are with respect  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / W.  
Aldersey / Thos. Kelsal / John Reed /  
Joseph Jekyll.

### *Postscript*

1. Since closing our letter Mr. Osborne has been brought up to the Presidency by virtue of a warrant from the Mayor's Court on application of some persons to whom he was indebted.

2. We shall however take proper measures for sending him home by some one of the ships this season.

3. The *Morse* by her cables parting at Kedgiree when the greatest part of her cargo was on board run foul of the *Ponsborne* and carried away that vessel's bow-sprit. Luckily the *Morse* received but small damage by the shock and was soon safely brought to her old moorings, and the *Ponsborne* was in a short time refitted and made ready for sailing.

4. We have granted by these ships the following sets of certificates:—

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs.</i>
1 set dated the 9th November 1771 to John Deffell as Second Officer of the ship <i>Morse</i> , Captain John Watson Commander.	Himself	2,597- 6-0
1 set dated the 14th November 1771 to James Haddock, Executor of the late John Horne, Commander of the ship <i>Morse</i> .	James Haddock, executor to the said effect	36,363-10-0
1 set dated the 11th November 1771 [to] Martin Waghorn, Chief Mate of the ship <i>Ponsborne</i> , Captain Samuel Hugh Commander.	Himself	2,888- 0-0
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to William Harrmet, Second Officer of the ship <i>Ponsborne</i> , Captain Samuel Hugh Commander.	Himself	2,308-12-9
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to James Skeene, Surgeon of the ship <i>Morse</i> , Captain John Watson Commander.	Himself	1,948-12-9
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to James Haddock of the ship <i>Morse</i> , Captain John Watson Commander.	Himself	1,948- 1-0
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to William Spink, Surgeon of the <i>Ponsborne</i> , Captain Samuel Hough Commander.	Himself	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to Thomas Leg, Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Ponsborne</i> , Captain Samuel Hugh Commander.	Himself	1,154- 6-6
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to Captain Samuel Hough, Commander of the ship <i>Ponsborne</i> .	Himself	32,323- 3-6
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to John Westena, Third Officer of the ship <i>Ponsborne</i> , Captain Samuel Hough Commander.	Himself	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to John Barckley, Fifth Officer of the ship <i>Ponsborne</i> , Captain Samuel Hough Commander.	Himself	577- 3-0

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs.</i>
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to George Burge, Purser of the ship <i>Ponsborne</i> , Captain Samuel Hough Commander.	Himself	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated the 19th November 1771 to Vansittart Darell and Holland, attorneys to Captain Robert Rous, Commander of the ship <i>Brittania</i> .	Himself	1,068- 5-6
1 set dated 21st November 1771 to Capt John Watson, late, First Officer of the ship <i>Morse</i> .	Himself	2,886- 0-0
1 set dated 21st November 1771 to Capt John Watson on account of the late Robert Dennis, Third Officer of the ship <i>Morse</i> .	Himself	1,731- 9-9
1 sett dated 21st November 1771 to Henery Farrar, late Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Morse</i> , Captain John Watson Commander.	Himself	1,154- 6-6
1 set dated 21st November 1771 to Thomas Mernard late, Fifth Officer of the ship <i>Morse</i> , Captain John Watson Commander.	Himself	577- 3-0
1 set dated the 21st November 1771 to Captain Robert Preston, Commander of the ship <i>Asia</i> .	Himself	32,323- 3-6
1 set dated the 21st November 1771 to George Boyes, First Officer of the ship <i>Asia</i> , Captain Robert Preston Commander.	Himself	2,886- 0-0
1 set dated the 21st November 1771 to George Cadman, Second Officer of the ship <i>Asia</i> , Captain Robert Preston Commander.	Himself	2,308-12-9
1 set dated the 21st November 1771 to Frederick Dufton, Third Officer of the ship <i>Asia</i> , Captain Robert Preston Commander.	Himself	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated the 21st November 1771 to George Scollough, Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Asia</i> , Captain Robert Preston Commander.	Himself	1,154- 6-6

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs.</i>
1 sett dated the 21st November 1771 to Charles Gregory, Fifth Officer of the ship <i>Asia</i> , Captain Robert Preston Commander.	> Himself	577- 3-0
1 set dated the 21st November 1771 to Clement Frances, Surgeon of the ship <i>Asia</i> , Captain Robert Preston Commander.	> Himself	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated the 21st November 1771 to Patrick Bigby, Purser of the ship <i>Asia</i> , Capt Robert Preston Commander.	> Himself	1,731- 9-9
		<hr/> Current rupees 1,39,166- 4-6 <hr/>

Fort William,  
November 26th, 1771.  
(Per *Morse*  
Duplicate per *Ponsborne*)

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / W.  
Aldersey / John Reed / Joseph Jekyll.

## SECRET LETTER DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1771

*Revenue collection: large unrealised balances in the City collections, an increase of nine lakhs in Murshidabad, and a decrease of three lakhs in Bihar; lands farmed out on a three-year lease in Bihar as collection through Amins proved oppressive; no balance outstanding in Burdwan; five year leases on an increasing scale of rent adopted there; no balance in Midnapore collections and a slight one in Chittagong; substantial balance in the collections of the Company's zamindari lands—fresh disputes with the French—legality of the Company's claim to search foreign ships, particularly French, referred to Admiral Holland for opinion.*

From the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last address of the 30th August, duplicate of which we now enclose, was forwarded on His Majesty's frigate the *Stag*.

2. We shall now do ourselves the honor of addressing you on the state of your revenues, not having it before in our power to be particular on a



subject of so much importance to your affairs from a want of the necessary accounts from our Revenue Councils to enable us to give you a clear explanation of the collections of the last and the settlement of the present year.

3. The collections made on the last year's settlements at the City amounted to *sicca* rupees 119,29,506-13-9-2 and the balance incurred to about thirty-seven lacks. A small part, we have reason to believe from the Proceedings 26th April. assurances of the Council there, will be recovered, though we are apprehensive much the largest part must be remitted. A failure in the collections of so large a settlement was naturally to be expected from the ruinous and depopulated state of the country when made; and the variety of local accidents it is subject to, either from a want of rain in some parts or an excess in others with the probability of several districts being innundated, must always occasion some deficiency in the annual settlement, though from the appearance of the collection in January we were flattered with the hopes that so large a balance would not arise as had been incurred, and these hopes induced us to give you assurances that the deficiency was not likely to be so much as there had been reason to apprehend, though, we must remark, the annual settlement was then deemed by your Select Committee to be rather calculated for a more flourishing state of the provinces than the state it was reduced to by the severity of a famine.

4. Having received since closing the revenue proceedings, the settlement for the present year amounting to net revenue *sicca* rupees 1,66,37,147-12-4, we beg leave to forward the same as a paper of the packet, as likewise a letter from the Muxadabad Council containing their remarks on the settlement of each particular district under the different Supervisors. From this settlement we find an increase of nine lacks on the preceeding one, which we hope will appear to you to be a very considerable addition to your annual revenue so immediately after a year which produced such variety of distress and calamity to the inhabitants of these provinces; and as the Supervisors have by this time established their authority in their different departments and the season is favorable to the crops, we entertain no doubt but the collections will be made without incurring any material balances.

5. The accounts of the Bahar collections for 1770 to '71 have not yet been forwarded to us as the year does not expire in that province till the latter end of the month of September, and the accounts, we do Proceedings 15th Octr. suppose, are kept open for the receipt of such collections as the gentlemen of the Revenue Council at Patna may have reason to expect; but from their letter of the 14th September, with their proposal of an agreement for letting out the province of Bahar on a lease for three years, they then imagine the receipt of their collections will not amount to a larger sum than rupees 43,72,002, which appears a decrease on the net annual settlement for the last year of rupees 5,35,058-14-0; however a part, we understand, will be brought to account by advances or *tegavy* for the present year and charges for the Supervisors to be brought to account at the final close of their accounts so that by these deductions the decrease will, we hope, be reduced to a sum of between three or four lacks.

6. Though we could have wished not to have given our sanction for farming out this province for a longer term than one year till we could have obtain-

ed by an accurate investigation the true value of the province by ascertaining the amount of rents paid by the *riots* of each district to the different collectors, yet as we found it was the opinion of the gentlemen who are the members of that Board that such an investigation was scarcely possible to be made but to the injury of the country if the old mode of collecting by *Aumils* was again practised, and reflecting that the revenues of this province have been greatly in a declining state for the two last years, and the country greatly distressed both from a famine and the oppression of the *Aumils*, we thought it our duty to give the most effectual relief to it that could be pointed out; and as the representations of the Council there, supported by the opinion of Rajah Sitabroy founded on a local knowledge of the country, was in a great measure to be our guide as to any resolutions we might take in making the future settlement, we judged the arguments made use of in their letter of the 14th September so strong in favor of letting the lands out on an improving lease of three years that it was impossible to withhold our consent, unless we could propose a mode of settlement equally advantageous to the country as the one they had proposed. The repeated representations made by Mr. Rumbold and Mr. Alexander, the former Residents of the Bahar province, of the ruinous mode of making the collections by appointing of *Aumils* occurred [*sic*] to us, and

Proceedings 15th  
Octr.

gave the greatest force to the plan recommended by the gentlemen of the Patna factory, and which we finally adopted and ordered the same to be carried into execution, at the same time recommending that they would instruct the different Supervisors acting under their orders to a vigilant endeavour to procure such lights of the real value of their respective districts that we might have it in our power on the expiration of the three years lease of forming a future settlement with the greatest accuracy. We have therefore only to acquaint you that the settlement of the present year for the province of Bahar will amount to Rs. 49,43,577, the second year to Rs. 53,10,249, and the third to Rs. 57,28,381, the medium of which greatly exceeds the medium collections from the time of your holding the *Dewanny*, and it is to be hoped that the country will annually improve by an increased cultivation and the renters left more at their ease to promote it.

7. The collections in your province of Burdwan have been made without any balances outstanding; and the sum of Rs. 2,34,272 which the distress of the province obliged us to remit from the rents of the former year but to be paid up in full in the succeeding one has been received except 63,408-13-10, which in consideration of the total inability of the farmers and the great losses they must have sustained by the mortality among their *riots* have obliged us totally to remit, a sum we must remark to be very inconsiderable when the extent of the province is considered and the misery it was involved in.

8. The three years' lease entered into with the farmers by Mr. Becher, then Collector General for the lands of that province, being expired, we thought

23d April.

proper to give directions to our Resident there to put the lands up to sale on a lease of 5 years, being of opinion that when the true value of the lands is nearly ascertained the most probable means of their further improvement must depend on long leases and such as [would] make it the interest of the farmer to encourage the industry of his *riots* and extend and improve the cultivation of the lands. This measure, from

your repeated letters, we have the pleasure to find to be entirely conformable to your sentiments.

9. But from the decayed condition of the northern *pergunnahs* of this province by the loss of inhabitants and neglect of cultivation, their value was so considerably reduced that no farmers would take them on the terms they were before held on, and a deduction therefore in the rents of those *pergunnahs* the Resident has been obliged to allow in the leases of those lands, though an increase has been added on the more flourishing *pergunnahs* to the southward. On the final adjusting of the settlement a decrease of rent to the amount of Rs. 1,33,963-14 on the northern *pergunnahs* took place; but we must observe that this deduction is not from the rent roll, but only an indulgence to the farmer till their lands are brought again into an improved state, and to be again brought to the credit of the province by proportional annual payments, and the fifth year the whole will be brought again on the rent roll with an increase of *sicca* rupees 96,068-1-0 on the settlement of the southern *pergunnahs*. For the present year the settlement amounts to rupees 41,89,241-10-6, and the amount of the deduction added to this sum gives the total amount of the rents to be received in the fifth year amounting to *sicca* rupees 43,23,205-8-6.

10. With equal success have the collections of the Midnapore province been made as those of Burdwan without any balances remaining; the new year's settlement we have not yet received, but as the districts here have in their value been as nearly ascertained as possible we imagine little increase can be added to the same unless by a larger proportion of waste lands being brought into cultivation.

11. A balance of current rupees 10,223-7-8 arises on the *band-oo-bust* or settlement of the Chittagong province, part of which will be recovered. We must remark that this balance is to a less amount than has been left uncollected for the last six years. The present year's settlement is formed from the preceding year's after deductions made for sums remitted and losses on the last year's revenue and amounts to CRs. 5,27,127-6-2.

12. We shall now proceed to inform you, Honorable Sirs, of the collections immediately on your own lands, the 24 *Pergunnahs*, the town of Calcutta, and the 15 *Dhees*. The collections were made on a *hustabood* settlement of the former years, which after the decreases which particular circumstances made necessary to allow, amounted to *sicca* rupees 14,02,473-13-3. Of the sum, from the distress and misery of the country, only *sicca* rupees 10,39,777-7 was collected of that year's settlements; and the sum 2,44,640-9-10 of the outstanding balances on former settlements and salt duties made the total collections amount to *sicca* rupees 13,16,216-3; the balance which remains to be accounted for is the sum of *sicca* rupees 3,62,692<sup>1</sup> on the settlement. This sum, we are sensible, must appear to you large, but when it comes to be considered that collecting former outstanding balances is so much diminution of the current year's receipts, it will assist in clearing up this point.

13. Having thus briefly proceeded to give you a detail of the collections of the past year and informed you, Honorable Sirs, of such settlements as have taken place for the present one, we must refer you to our Committee of Revenue proceedings for a more full and explanatory account of particulars, and shall conclude this subject by remarking that as this season has proved in

the highest degree favorable, we have every reason to hope the collections will be carried on with the greatest success. Hitherto they have been well kept up and we doubt not of their continuing to be so.

14. Our proceedings in the Secret Department to our great concern are filled almost entirely by our correspondence with the representatives of the French Company.

15. We have obeyed your orders as well as followed our own inclinations in giving them every satisfaction on the several occasions they have had to complain; and yet when you peruse them we hope you will be of our opinion they are of that nature that no administration would deem worthy of a public representation had it no other view than a desire of redress.

16. In the complaint they made regarding the spot of ground they had purchased at Chandelah<sup>2</sup>, we are more surprised at their affected pretensions of being injured than at the Nabob's spirit of resentment. Without desiring his permission to remove an established factory, without enquiring whether it was agreeable to him to have a new factory built upon another spot of ground in the very heart of a district, they took upon them to purchase in a private manner a piece of land from a zemindar, to procure from him a *pottah* which they knew he could have no right to grant without proper authority; they placed their people upon it to keep possession; and when dispossessed of this unjust acquisition by the sovereign of the country, they openly complain of it as an insult on their nation and apply to us for redress before they make a representation to the Nabob.

17. If any part of their conduct can equal the beginning it must be only the latter part of it.

18. To that authority which they had injured we referred them for the satisfaction they demanded. We indeed at their earnest request did afterwards promise to interfere with the Nabob as mediators, but it has been without success.

19. In the following dispute with our agent Mr. Randolph Marriott at Bala-sore on a custom which he had practised as his predecessors had done, you will  
 Consn. 23rd perceive an impropriety of behaviour bordering even on  
 May. insult which their agent has assumed, and which has been followed in all the succeeding disputes; they have involved us in a behaviour which must be grounded, we do suppose, on their sanguine expectations of the near approach of some very important change.

20. Another complaint was on the treatment a French surgeon met with from a man who was left at Cuttac to take care of the letters which pass between our settlement and Fort St. George whilst our agent there was necessitated to come to Calcutta on account of his health for a short time.

21. This matter we accommodated in the best manner possible, but we must beg leave to remark that the many Frenchmen who pass and repass through that part of India cannot but give great cause for suspicion of a clandestine correspondence being carried on by that method with some of the country powers.

22. It is here necessary to premise that the French have made no investment for the present year, and their sole attention has been to recover by



violent measures such balances as they may have contracted for years past, and that without much consideration of the miseries the country was lately reduced to.

23. The cause of their late complaints has arisen from the opposition their agents have met with from ours in their seizing and confining debtors who they pretended owed sums of money to their Company and without any consideration of their being our winders or weavers and their having received our advances, carrying them by force to their factories and extorting from them the money they had received from us. In vain the persons pleaded that having been considered as insolvent they had never molested them on this account for 14 years before, or, that they did not owe any part of their demand, or which still shews a higher flight of their inconsideration and avarice that the debt they owed was not to their Company but to other people who had made over their right to their agents.

24. They pleaded the privilege of the *phirmaund* for seizing and confining by their own authority all their debtors. But as their *phirmaund* only says "*such as are indebted to our Company*" surely their practice of seizing persons for debts owing to other persons under pretence of their being made over to them is such a stretch of that delegated authority and is of such manifest injury to all the subjects of the empire that a moment's consideration must point out the fallacy of it. For by such means the natives are deprived of the benefit of their courts of justice in their disputes of property with each other and a door is open to innumerable acts of injustice and oppression.

25. Again where those people who were real debtors to them were employed by us in our manufactures, what a total ruin might they bring upon our investment by seizing them at their looms and taking from them the money with which they had been supplied by us. And to carry it still further, by getting people to make over real or pretended debts to them, they might carry off every manufacturer in our employ, and without any form of trial or any opposition from us they might get into their hands every rupee of our advances and put a total stop to our trade.

26. You will observe that in the *Dewanee* lands we have recommended to our Supervisors to give these poor people protection, but not to appear openly in it. In our own lands we have considered ourselves as authorized to appear more openly, and we hope that this oppressive conduct of theirs will by these means soon be checked.

27. The greatest proof of that spirit of exaggeration they constantly practise in all their representations is most strongly marked out in their complaints against your servant Mr. Cotes, who has occasionally been sent out to Keerpoy to inspect the investment there. With respect to this affair William Marriott was appointed by our Board to make a strict enquiry into every circumstance of the complaint and his investigation appears in full on our proceedings.

28. You will there see an artful designing man using every provoking method to draw on a deserving though in this instance an imprudent young man into some act of indiscretion, seizing the first opportunity which the other's rashness and imprudence gave him to dress out a complaint in such

colours as one would have imagined falsehood could not have dared to make use of.

29. His own people depose contrary to some parts of his declarations, and witnesses prove the untruth of those assertions, whereby he endeavours to heighten the impropriety of a conduct which of itself had been too unguarded and inconsiderate to pass our notice and reprehension.

30. We have received a letter from Admiral Harland<sup>3</sup> couched in very warm and polite terms and containing offers of his assistance on any emergency. As we had previously furnished Sir John Lindsay with all the necessary papers relative to our dispatches with the French, and which Sir John informed us he had delivered over to Admiral Harland as his successor, we had only to return our acknowledgements to him for his friendly offers and assurances of farther information when any new disputes should arise between us and the French in this part of India.

31. We took the opportunity of the Admiral's arrival to refer to his experience and knowledge in these matters a case wherein we ourselves were not sufficiently informed. It was how far we could have a right to send on board of and examine any foreign, particularly French, ships which should pass by our forts and batteries, a custom we had regularly observed, but never insisted on in cases of refusal, and yet without such right and authority the treaty of peace might be broken and safety of this country endangered by their bringing in any number of troops without our being able to detect them.

32. We doubt not of being fully satisfied on this head by the Admiral's answer, and in the meantime every precaution shall be observed in these cases which prudence or the urgency of circumstances may dictate.

33. In consequence of the orders contained in your letter by the *Dolphin* frigate, we sent Captain Lockhart Russell in the *Amazon* schooner to discover what settlements the French might have on the island of Madagascar. His report of the discoveries he made during his cruize, we send in a separate proceeding of the Secret Department, to which we beg leave to refer you for particular information, as it contains great variety of subjects as likewise our resolutions in consequence. Copies of the plans and drafts which he took, we send a number in the packet.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / W.  
Aldersey / Thos. Kelsall / John Reed /  
Joseph Jekyll.

Fort William,  
the 15th November 1771.

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1771

*Vazir unwilling to give Chunargarh to the Company in perpetuity, but agreeable to its being garrisoned by its troops in the existing political situation—services of an engineer sought by the Vazir to erect a fort on the European model—Vazir's request for help in case the Marathas influence Shah Alam to deprive him of the Vazarat: only general assurances given—Emperor's progress en route to Delhi—dissensions among the Marathas—Zabita Khan's preparations to resist the Emperor and the Marathas.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our address by Captain Deane of the *Stag* frigate under date the 31st August contained a particular relation of such occurrences as came within the province of your Political Department since which very little has occurred worthy to attract your notice.

2. We flattered ourselves that we should have been able to have informed you ere this of our being in actual possession of the fortress of Chunar Gur, but here the dilatory and intriguing spirit of the Vizier has again intervened to throw this event at some distance. He now expresses himself much averse to the making over the fort to us in perpetuity, and proposes only that it should be garrisoned by our troops, while affairs to the westward may require our intervention, or himself stand in need of our assistance.

3. The King's duplicity in the course of the negotiations on this subject coinciding with his present distressed situation (which the Vizier has never yet failed taking all possible advantage of) has contributed much to the accomplishment of the Nabob's views in making the acquisition of Allahabad. His Majesty's commands, now unaccompanied with any kind of reservation, positively direct us to deliver up the fort without delay, and it is evident that he has been thus peremptory from the Vizier's refusal lately to furnish him with either levies or money unless some place of strength be allotted him for the residence of his family and the security of his possessions.

4. Matters by general consent are to remain in their present state until the result of His Majesty's expedition shall be known, but we firmly believe that the Vizier's extreme anxiety to realize his now but nominal investiture, spurred on by his apprehension that the King when once in the power of the Mhorattahs may be necessitated to make them a cession of the province of Allahabad and Corah, a blow of all others he is solicitous to avert, will induce him speedily to comply with the terms we have proposed, which are expressive of our wish to be permitted to retain possession of Chunar Gur while the troubles in the country or the interests of the Company may render it expedient.

5. The great importance of this post, situated almost on the very line of our own frontier, will, we hope, be deemed a sufficient excuse for our entering at all into any discussion that may carry the appearance of extending the acquisitions of the Company beyond their present limits.

6. His excellency has lately formed another project which from its nature and tendency must employ a considerable portion of his time and attention and prove a great drain to his treasury. He represents to the Committee the defenceless state of his country, open to the ravages of every invader, and destitute even of a single place of strength to retire to in cases of emergency. This consideration has induced him to form the design of erecting such a fortification as may best suit his purpose ; and as he is desirous that it should be of European construction, he entreats that upon this occasion we will furnish him with an engineer of capacity and experience. It seems he proposes it shall be of such considerable extent as to contain a city, and by the last accounts he had actually fixed upon its intended situation and had himself examined the ground. Though it was with extreme concern that we received this intelligence, yet as we indisputably were not authorized to interfere in any measures he might imagine calculated for the defence of his dominions, we thought it more prudent to put the best face upon the matter and convince him of our inclination at all times to render him service by the apparent alacrity of our compliance with his requisition, more especially as it was certainly better policy that he should receive assistance at our hands than be necessitated by a refusal to have recourse to some of the Frenchmen in his service, many of whom it is probable possess abilities equal to the task, while the benefits accruing to us from a proper person's being employed upon this business are obvious and many.

7. Upon a reference to the numberless schemes adopted by His Excellency, which have been laid before you, with a rapidity in their succession, it should seem that as his bent of genius incessantly prompts him to great and ardent undertakings and to projects which have every appearance of stability and judgment for their basis, so it deprives him of those qualities required to carry them into execution, and that in general they are abandoned in the moment of their formation.

8. He has of late been very urgent to be made acquainted with the determination of the Committee relative to the conduct we propose observing should His Majesty at the instigation of the Mhorattahs be inclined to dispossess him of the *Vizierhut* or join in any steps that may have a tendency to disturb his tranquility. As it was not thought expedient to return him any determinate answer, we waived the subject giving him general assurances only of our intention to preserve inviolate the spirit of the treaty now in force and that on our part it should never suffer any infraction.

9. By the latest intelligence the King was at Noby Gunge, some little distance beyond Furruckabad, and his tents had been forwarded to Minepoor, the next stage on the direct road to Agra, which is the rout he has chosen to proceed. Many circumstances have concurred to impede the progress of His Majesty's expedition, the principal seems to be occasioned by the designed neglect of the Vizier in not performing his engagements, and the want of unanimity that now prevails in the Mhorattah councils, which has been the source of much delay and fruitless negotiation. Undetermined on whom he can



with safety place dependance or what plan of conduct to pursue, and distressed in the extreme for the means of payment for troops, who either surround him with clamor or forsake his standard, it is probable he now regrets that he ever quitted Allahabad and our protection.

10. The Mhorattah Chief, Ram Chunder Gunnes, has marched from Delhy with a body of men on his return to the Decan, and Bysagee Pundit succeeds to the supreme command; but it is imagined that Tuccogee, who finds his consequence decline by this event, will throw every obstacle in the way of his projects. Their dissensions will however be productive of this good effect, that they will either procrastinate or entirely prevent their undertaking anything of consequence in the course of the present favourable season for military operations.

11. Zabita Cawn is still at Succurtaul and ever watchful of any designs His Majesty, aided by the Mhorattahs, may have against him. He has made the necessary preparation to meet them in the field, should they commence hostilities.

12. We have the honor to forward to you by the ship now under dispatch a broken set of our proceedings from the 31st March, the dispatches of the *Lord Mansfield*, to the 14th November together with a copy of a broken set lost on the *Verelst* from the 29 December 1770 to the 18 February 1771. We are very sorry to inform you that our complete set of proceedings for 1770 suffered the same fate with the rest of the papers sent in that unfortunate ship. However the broken set we now forward will enable you to form a judgement of the transactions of that year, and in the meantime another set shall be transcribed with all possible haste. A duplicate of our letter by the *Stag* frigate also comes accompanying. The gentlemen of the Select Committee at Fort St. George have requested us to forward to you three letters, their address as per list of packet.

Fort William,  
the 15th November 1771.  
(Per *Morse*  
Duplicate per *Ponsborne*)

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful and most obedient  
servants,  
John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / Claud  
Russell.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 30 NOVEMBER 1771

(FROM J. CARTIER, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL)

*Forwarding information received from Fort St. George, regarding settlement between Muhammad Ali and the Raja of Tanjore.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

The dispatches by the *Morse* and *Ponsborne* having left town these four days gives me a very uncertain hope of communicating the intelligence I have

this instant received from Mr. Du Pré of an accomodation having taken place between the Nabob Mahomed Ally and the King of Tanjore. Mr. Du Pré considers this event as of most material consequence for your early information. I have not lost a moment in transmitting the account to Your Honors with a copy of Mr. Du Pré's letter enclosed, which I judged to be more eligible than to attempt putting a stop to the sailing of those ships, as they must have weighed from Ingilec before this can possibly reach them.

I am,  
With all possible respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servant,  
John Cartier.

Fort William,  
30th November 1771.

#### ENCLOSURE

TO the Honorable John Cartier Esqr., President and Governor of Fort William.

Sir,

You have been informed by the general letters from hence that we had been under the necessity of putting our army in the field in order to call the Raja of Tanjore to account. After taking the fort of Vellum the army sat down before the capital the beginning of last month. We expected that the reduction of the fort would have been the consequence, but we have just received advice that the Nabob has accepted of terms of accomodation. The event of this expedition is so interesting to our employers that I wish to give them the earliest information. I do not as yet know the terms of accomodation or on what grounds and motives they were accepted. We shall doubtless have all the particulars in a few days. I could wish therefore that if your early ship is not already gone she might be detained till I can write you further on this subject; but if you should not think it proper to detain her in that case, I beg that you will be pleased to communicate the contents of this letter to the Court of Directors, and all further explanation shall go by the first opportunity.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,  
(Signed) Jos. Du Pré.

Fort St. George,  
2nd November 1771.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1772

*Shipping news—civil service matters: appointment of Warren Hastings as Governor—investigation into the charges against Goodwin, a Magistrate—miscellaneous questions: issue of interest notes; commission money—army—personnel and other questions—report on certain lawsuits: case against Forbes dropped—miscellaneous questions such as charter party, etc.—trade and investment: difficulties involved in providing investment by employing dadni merchants—inadequacy of the allowances of members of Council and proposal to give them a monopoly of salt trade—postscript: strictures on the court martial which tried Capt. Mackenzie—sundry matters relating to passengers, packets sent etc.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last address was dated the 15th November 1771 and transmitted in duplicate by the *Morse* and *Ponsborne*, who sailed together, and we have the pleasure to inform you got clear of their pilots the 4th last month.

2. We have since received by the *Lord Holland*, Captain Nairne, your several letters dated 10th and 25th April and 3rd May 1771 with two addresses from your Secretary dated the 8th May. The lateness of the season would not permit Captain Nairne to touch upon the Coast and reduced him to the necessity of coming on to Bengal. The *Colebrooke* has not yet made her appearance.

3. According to our promise to the Fort St. George Presidency we dispatched the *Lord North* to that port on the 3rd instant with her proportion of saltpetre and red wood and such part of their indents as could be provided, the supply of gunpowder excepted, as by the opinion of our Chief Engineer we had not more than sufficient for our own use in case of an emergency. We have however assured them that should their necessities be very urgent we shall not fail by the earliest opportunities to assist them as far as may be consistent with a prudent regard to our own occasions.

4. The *Rochford* having brought here a quantity of shot which were consigned to Fort St. George, we took the opportunity of sending them round in the *Lord North*, together with the consignment of Madeira wine by the *Lord Holland*, for that Presidency.

5. In answer to our application to the President and Council of Bombay requesting them to supply the Madras Presidency with a ship to carry home part of their investment, we have been advised of their intention to send round the *Deptford* for that purpose with only a lading of saltpetre. This ship will, we imagine, suffice for the residue of their investment after the lading of the *Lord North*.

6. By our Consultation of the 9th December you will be pleased to observe

that your orders contained in the several paragraphs of the letters received by the *Lord Holland* were immediately put in execution, excepting such as we thought required reconsideration, and those points were in our next subsequent meetings considered and determined upon in the manner we judged the most conducive to your interest and the nearest to your meaning and intentions.

7. At the receipt of your commands regarding Messrs Becher, Russell and Floyer, the two first named gentlemen were departed for Europe. We signified to the latter gentlemen, your orders for his return to Fort St. George, which he will pay proper obedience to as soon as he can settle his private concerns.

8. Soon after the arrival of your orders for the succession of Mr. Hastings to the Chair, we dispatched the *Minerva* snow to Fort St. George with their public packet brought by the *Lord Holland* and an address to that Presidency, accompanied by a letter to Mr. Hastings advising of that gentlemen's appointment, and desiring he would proceed hither as soon as possible for which purpose the *Minerva* was to await their orders.

9. Mr. Philip Milner Dacres, whom you have been pleased to appoint a member of our Board, took his seat thereat immediately on his arrival.

10. Mr. Stewart, whom you have appointed Judge Advocate General to succeed to the post of Secretary, did not take his passage on the *Lord Holland*. When he arrives here your orders concerning him shall be attended to. As by the death of Mr. Richard Browne we have no person to appoint fixed Assistant Secretary we request that you will be pleased to send out some one qualified for that station.

11. The three Italians mentioned in your letter of 3rd May we find on enquiry did not come upon the *Lord Holland*. On their arrival your orders regarding them shall be strictly attended to.

12. Neither did Mr. Richard Whittall embark on the *Lord Holland*. When he arrives in Bengal and prefers his petition of appeal to us, we shall according to your directions accept of the same.

13. On the receipt of Mr. Alexr. Jephson's memorial we appointed a day for the examination of the charge he brings against Mr. Cornelius Goodwyn<sup>1</sup>, of uttering whilst he sat at the bench expressions so contrary to his duty as a Magistrate and his loyalty as a subject. The Sheriff and such of the Aldermen and attorneys of the court who had been present at any one time during the trial of Mr. Jephson's cause and who were now either living or at the Presidency were summoned before us, and after a previous information of the charge against Mr. Goodwin were severally and separately interrogated as to their knowledge of remembrance thereof. Of seven to whom the question was put 6 declared that they had never heard such expressions uttered by Mr. Goodwin, nor any words which could be construed into a meaning or tendency similar to the accusation ; two of these persons, who were present at almost every meeting of the court during the proceedings against Mr. Jephson and have been Aldermen above 5 years, declare that they never had at any time heard such expressions uttered by Mr. Goodwin ; a third who declares that he does not recollect having been once absent during the course of the proceedings against Mr. Jephson and who has acted as an attorney in the court for 10 years past



solemnly avows, that no person belonging to the court ever uttered such a declaration in his hearing. The only person who says that he recollects Mr. Goodwin's making use of such words is Mr. Joseph Cator, who was at that time one of the Aldermen, and here it cannot be improper to observe that it appears strange Mr. Cator should allow such very extraordinary speeches to be made before him without his taking the least notice thereof until called upon by us. Surely his duty as a subject claimed a discovery of it to the Governor and Council ; and though he says he thought them at the time very extraordinary, and consequently it is apparent that they made an impression upon him, yet it would appear that he thought otherwise by his keeping a profound silence on a subject by which he made himself in a degree accessory to the guilt, had Mr. Goodwin made use of expressions so glaring and unwarrantable. Not to mention the general good character borne by Mr. Goodwin would be an injustice towards him, as it is a circumstance in his favor ; and though on a conviction of his guilt it would not in any manner alleviate his punishment, yet where so many persons who were not only present at the time when it is asserted he spoke those words, but who for years past have regularly attended the court, have declared that they cannot recollect his using any expressions in any manner similar to those he is charged with, add to this, that those person are men of substance and of allowed good characters, in such a case we cannot but grant that weight to their declaration as to conclude Mr. Goodwin guiltless, and suppose that Mr. Cator has erred through a misunderstanding of the words or through the fault of his memory in not recollecting rightly what passed at the distance of two years.

14. In answer to the 134th paragraph of your letter of the 10th April, we beg leave to inform you that a complete set of the Restitution accounts went by the *Verelst*, and that another set is nearly finished and will we hope be ready in time to go by one of the ships of this season.

15. The Military Pay Master General's books balanced to April 1769 were also sent by the *Verelst*. We have directed another set to be drawn out and ordered the books for 1770 to be finished with all expedition.

16. Gerrard Napper whom you recommended in your last advices to be appointed youngest cadet of the season died at Dinahpore the 6th<sup>2</sup> June 1771 in the station of serjeant of infantry in the 3rd regiment.

17. John Frayzer, whom you ordered to be discharged in case his time was out and he had not renewed his contract, had on the 3rd<sup>3</sup> of October 1771 renewed it for the 2nd company of artillery for 3 years.

18. Before the receipt of your orders confirming the allowance granted to Dirige Narrain at Patna, we had directed the arrears thereof to be paid him in consideration of the distress to which he had been reduced by the deprivation of his *jaghire* and having no means of subsistence left.

19. On the departure of Messrs Russell and Kelsall, Messrs Lane and Barwell, the servants next in succession were appointed to fill the vacancies at the Board ; the former has taken his seat, the latter is expected very shortly.

20. The majority of the Board agreeing in the necessity of appointing immediate successors to those gentlemen Mr. James Lawrell was nominated Chief of Patna and Mr. Gruiber, Chief of Cossimbuzar. Messrs Reed and

Jekyll differing in their sentiments from the rest of the Board, their minutes on the occasion are recorded on the Consultations referred to in the margin.  
[...]

21. On taking into consideration your appointment of 14 members to compose our Council, we were divided in our opinion, whether it was meant that your former orders for fixing the Council to 9 should in future be adhered to, and consequently that the vacancies occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Kelsall and the death of Mr. Hare should remain unfilled, or whether those orders were considered to be entirely superceded and set aside by this posterior arrangement.

22. The doubt arose from the express manner in which you were pleased to order the reduction of the Council to 9 members by your letter of 23rd March 1770, and by its not being expressly said in your present advices that your Council is in future to be kept up to the number fourteen. The majority however being of opinion that such were your intentions, we proceeded to the filling up of the two vacancies, and Messrs James Harris and James Lawrell being the next in rank have been accordingly called to take their seats at our Board.

23. As there was a probability of other vacancies in a short space of time, we deemed it more conducive to your interests to defer making the appointments under Council for the present than by making changes one month which probably would be upset by other changes the next expose your affairs to confusion and disorder by such quick and repeated alterations.

24. The Military Committee representing the great deficiency of *chunam* for the use of the fortifications, and recommending as the most likely method of securing a proper quantity the taking into the Company's hands all the trade of private persons in that article on accounting with them for such of their balances as could be proved, we accordingly gave directions for that purpose to the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad, as it appeared to us a much more certain as well as cheaper way than supplying ourselves by private purchases with the quantity required beyond the amount engaged for by the contractors.

25. Since we advised of our having complied with several applications for the payment of money into our treasury on the terms of receiving interest notes to be exchanged for bills on the Company when we might open our treasury for that purpose, we have had many others to the same purport and have agreed to receive on those terms all such sums as may be tendered, directing the officer of the treasury to deliver to us at the beginning of every week an account of the money paid in the preceeding one that we might put a stop to this method of supply whenever our exigencies are provided for. The amount received into the treasury on these conditions from the 5th of September last to this day is CRs. 2,85,674-12-3<sup>4</sup>, exclusive of two quarterly payments of Lord Clive's *jaghire*.

26. In compliance with your orders by the *Mansfield* the commission money on the revenues has been confined to the classes you have pointed out, and we have called on those persons who either received surplus sums or were not entitled to any shares to return the sums they had received. As these are paid into the treasury, they are carried to your account under the proper head.

27. On an application from Mr. Grueber setting forth that the godowns he had built at Buddual had been constantly made use of for the Company's investment ever since they were erected, and desiring that he might be reimbursed the charge of them as well as be allowed a rent for the time they had been in the Company's possession, we agreed to allow him a hundred rupees per month from the commencement of the time they had been appropriated to their use, and to continue the same in future whilst they should be employed for the Company, or until your pleasure should be known on condition however of his keeping them in good repair. We directed the Cossimbuzar factory on the receipt of your letter to pay Mr. Grueber the 9,000 rupees original cost and take the godowns into their own hands on the Company's account.

28. General Barker having recommended the appointment of a Barrack Master General, and proposing in order to save expence that the post should be held by the same person who might act as Quarter Master General without any additional salary, we consented to the measure, and appointed the present Quarter Master General to take charge of this post also.

29. It is with great satisfaction that we inform you of Lieutenant Colonel Campbell's resolution of remaining in India another season as he found his health so well established. It would appear however from his address that he has been much hurt by the regulations of the Committee by which he is precluded the privilege of a seat at the Military Committee. To you we must beg leave to refer this matter, and by you it must be determined whether the privilege which Colonel Campbell before enjoyed of a voice at the Committee of Works on all affairs relative to the fortifications shall be continued to him in the Military Committee.

30. In the meantime we hope that the late marks of your favor towards him will induce him to continue in the country until we are favored with your sentiments on the pretensions he has advanced.

31. Major Morrison thinking himself aggrieved in his rank addressed us for permission to resign and return to Europe that he might lay his case before you. We thought it necessary before we granted his request to make known to him your orders relative to officers who may deem themselves aggrieved and to recommend it to his consideration. But persisting in his request we gave him leave of resignation and he has determined on prosecuting his journey overland.

32. The very improper and refractory behaviour of Captain Ralph Harding, which is particularly set forth by General Barker in his letter to our Board, determined us to dismiss him the service. We were the rather prompted to this resolution by a principle of lenity, and those considerations set forth in the General's letter already referred to.

33. Captain Clifton, an officer of artillery on the Fort St. George establishment who came here on the *Lord Holland*, presented to us a petition setting forth that since his arrival here he had been informed of the captain-lieutenant of artillery on the Coast having been raised to the rank of captain's, and that by this unexpected promotion he had been much injured in his rank. He therefore requested that he might be permitted to remain on this establishment in the room of Captain Warren, who proposed returning to Europe.

The petition which is recorded on our proceedings we could only refer to your determination.

34. The attorney employed on the part of the Company in the suit against Mr. Forbes gave us information that a petition had been filed in court by Mr. Forbes setting forth that the *banian* Kissen Kaunt Pottok, on whose affidavit and deposition taken before our late President Mr. Verelst the supplemental suit against Mr. Forbes on behalf of the *pycars* etc., at Bauleah was founded, had declared on the deposition as drawn up by Mr. Verelst being lately explained to him, it was contrary to what he had actually deposed, and that when he signed his name to it it had been explained to him in a very different manner; that this *banian* denied having accused Mr. Forbes of the oppression against the *pycars* which were set forth in the above deposition and declared that such accusations were inserted in the deposition contrary to his knowledge. As this man was ready to swear to the truth of this declaration and it was out of our power to dispute it, it must have stood good and through [*sic*] supplemental suit being entirely founded on the affidavit, which by this declaration would not be admitted as valid, we could no longer prosecute it with success. The writ of *ne exeat regnum* executed on Mr. Forbes, being also granted in consequence of the above affidavit, would by this declaration be withdrawn. We therefore thought it better by the advice of the attorney to withdraw the supplemental suit, which we could not expect to gain, than to allow the petition which contained such aspersions on the character of our late President to stand on the records of the Mayor's Court; and on these considerations we directed the suit to be withdrawn. The writ of *ne exeat regnum* being by this step being made void Mr. Forbes requested leave to proceed to England on the *Spike* which we have granted him on his giving security for the amount of the original suit. Independant of the circumstance which removed Mr. Forbes from the service we must do him the justice to remark he has constantly demeaned himself to the satisfaction of administration.

35. We give permission also to Mr. Lewis Mestayer to proceed home and he was utterly incapable of discharging the bond he had entered into. We directed him to execute it in triplicate; two of them we send home by these ships, and the third is deposited amongst our records.

36. We received from Bombay a complaint made by the officer stationed at Balambangan against Mr. William Mercer, Captain of a vessel belonging to this port, accusing him of having behaved in a very unbecoming manner to the Sultan of Solo. As Mr. Mercer was in Calcutta at the time, we called on him for his defence against an accusation of so serious a nature. The reply he made to the accusation will appear on our Consultations; and in addition to it we must in justice to the man declare that since his arrival in India in 1767 been noticed on account of his prudent and mild behaviour and a conduct very foreign to what he is accused of and has acquired in his station an universal good character. We cannot therefore help considering this as a misrepresentation arising from some mistake, but have cautioned him to avoid in any of his future dealings giving the Sultan or his people the least cause of dislike or dispute.

37. At the last General Quarter Sessions Thomas Power and James Herring, two seamen of the *Asia*, were sentenced to death on an indictment of felony;



but there are circumstances pleading in their behalf which we are willing to hope may procure a pardon from His Majesty. For from the proceedings of the Quarter Sessions now transmitted in the packet it will appear that the robbery was committed at a time when both Power and Herring were, as well as the person from whom the money was taken and who was one of their shipmates, in a state of intoxication from the quantity of liquor they had been drinking together immediately before the fact. The petty jury brought in their verdict guilty, at the same time recommending them to the mercy of the court. The jury was returned to reconsider the matter, but did not bring in a milder verdict, although it should seem that they must have been equally sensible with us of the circumstances which had appeared in mitigation of the offence. We therefore deem it our duty to represent the matter to you, and in consideration of the alleviating circumstances above mentioned we request your intercession with His Majesty for the obtaining of his most gracious pardon for these unhappy convicts.

38. We transmit numbers in the *Asia's* packet the original papers regarding Mr. Bolts, of which one set of copies was sent home by the *Mansfield*, and the other set you will receive by the *Spike* authenticated as you direct by the captain and officers.

39. You will also be pleased to receive authenticated copies of Mr. Bolts' petitions of appeal to the King in Council against Messrs. Edward Baber and Charles William Broughton; the filing of those petitions we had the honor to mention to you in our letter by the *Mansfield*.

40. The court martial, which you directed us to search for, held on Captain Donellan near Masulipatam in 1759, we have found, and now send a copy of it authenticated by Major Christian Fischer, who was the president of the court martial.

41. You will find on a complaint made by the Council of Revenue at Muxadabad against Mr. Cottrell, Supervisor at Dinagepoor for not carrying the orders they had occasion to send him into execution that we immediately removed that gentleman from his appointment, as we conceived least disobedience to their authority might be productive of serious consequences to the collections. Mr. Cottrell, having considered himself greatly aggrieved from the complaint lodged against him by the Council of Revenue, has mentioned to the President his intention of addressing the Board on this occasion, which address with our remarks thereon will appear in our letter under the established heads.

42. Admiral Harland having transmitted a small packet to us addressed to the Right Honorable the Earl of Rochford, one of His Majesty's Secretaries of State, with a request for its being sent in our next dispatches, we have enclosed in the *Asia's* packet. It is made up in wax cloth on which the direction is written.

43. We enclose a number in the packet one addressed to you by the Fort St. George Council, which on its arrival we dispatched down the river for the purpose of transmitting it by the *Morse* or *Ponsborne*, who had not then sailed, but the boat was not able to reach either of the ships. A duplicate of it which we received afterwards we forward by the *Spike*.

44. We have registered on the *Asia* a box of pearls, value CRs. 2,956-11,

consigned by Mr. Henry Cottrell to Messrs. Charles Edward and John Cottrell in London.

45. And also two diamonds valued at current rupees 4,000 consigned by Mr. Samuel Middleton to Mr. Robert Gregory in London. The register goes a number in the packet.

46. Captain George Dynely Goodyar having represented his declining health and lying before us the surgeon's certificate which sets forth the necessity of his return to England, we have granted him permission to resign, and he takes his passage on the *Spike*.

47. Mr. Matthew Allen, Surgeon on the military establishment, labouring under ill health has also received our leave to resign and proceeds on the *Spike*.

48. We have also granted permission to Mr. Vander Heyden and to Miss Suzannah Poole to return to England on the *Spike*.

49. Mr. James Irving, an ensign, has requested and obtained permission to resign and he takes his passage on the *Asia*.

50. Lieutenant John Cowe who had been a Lieutenant in His Majesty's navy, having received a summons from the Admiralty to return to England, had our leave to resign and took his passage on the *Lord North*.

51. Captain Isaac Eyles Warren of the artillery requesting permission to resign on account of his ill state of health desiring to have the benefit of the fund lately established, for which purpose he produced certificates from his commanding officer and the surgeons of his inability to continue longer in the service, we being also sensible of the justness of his representation have approved the certificates and beg leave to recommend him to you as a fit object of your bounty. But the other part of his request, that he might be permitted should he recover his health to return to Bengal without losing his rank, we could give him no other answer to than informing him that it must rest entirely with you whether an officer going home on the list of pensioners may be entitled to such an indulgence.

52. Captain Alexander Garrey and Jonathan Ramsay have also produced certificates from their respective commanders and the surgeons of the brigades they belonged to of their inability to serve longer from their infirmities and wounds. We have accordingly permitted them to resign the service and do recommend them as persons who have a just claim to your indulgence. The former takes his passage on the *Asia*, the other has received our permission for remaining till the next dispatch.

53. The underwritten persons are sent home on the terms of charter party. One of them, Thomas Radwell, gunner, having lost an arm and thereby rendered unfit for service, we have granted him a certificate to entitle him to the benefit of the fund lately established, copy whereof is enclosed. In compliance with your orders we have distinguished such as are invalids or have not served their time out. It being so late for the captains to receive the passage money here through the unsettled disposition of the men some of whom renewed their contracts after the order for their being taken on board had been drawn out we have referred the captains to you for payment.

*Embarked on the Asia*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Station</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Mathias Hawes	Serjeant	Invalid, unfit for field duty.
George Hummell	Corporal	
William Taylor	do	
John Williams	Gunner	Subject to convulsion fits, has served only 18 months.
John Due Coates	Drummer	
Mathew Nicholson	Private	
George Waterman	do	
Peter Lord	Private	
John Wilson	do	
Quin Rasooi	do	
Alexander Saunders	do	
John Johnston	do	
Randel Fowdon	do	
Peter Cumber	do	
Thomas Madderson	do	
David Howell	do	
James Shipley	do	
William Giltry	do	
Thomas Graves	do	

*On the Spike*

Henery Wood	Serjeant	Invalid, lost an arm, retires on the pension.
Thomas Radwell	Gunner	
John Hall	do	
John Smith	Matross	

54. We send numbers in the packet copies of the certificates granted to Captains Warren and Garrey and to Thomas Radwell, and also separate lists of the officers, soldiers and widows who have been recommended home for the pension ; and we beg leave to inform you that Mrs. Maria Gee, widow of Captain Gee who was killed on the Coast whom we recommend[ed] home for the benefit of the pension in the year 1769 has since that time married Mr. Thomas Henchman, one of your civil servants, and has therefore been struck off our list of pensioners.

55. In consequence of the orders contained in your letter dated 10th April last for reverting to the former mode of providing investment by *dadney* merchants, publication was immediately made here and orders circulated to the different subordinates that proposals of contract would be received, and as soon as they are delivered in we shall lose no time in taking them under our consideration. It is very evident that freedom of trade is necessarily productive of its increase and nothing is nearer to our wish than to see it take

place in its fullest extent ; but when we consider the propensity and disposition of the natives, confirmed by long habit and arising from the very nature and constitution of their government, which has an influence on their dealings in commercial matters as well as upon all other occasions, it is to be apprehended that the due accomplishment of such an object in this part of the world can be brought about only by slow degrees and under a course of time. This, however, as it is our duty, so it shall be our study to effect by every means in our power. One necessary consequence arising from the adoption of this mode must be an entrance upon the price of goods as the contractors will expect a reasonable profit for their trouble and the risk of such an undertaking ; but considering that the burden of outstanding balances will be guarded against by such a measure if proper securities can be obtained for the performance of their engagements and that it may tend to a real freedom of commerce, we are willing to flatter ourselves that in the end it will answer your expectations and coincide with the true interest of the country. As however the merchants reflecting upon their former ill success appear very reluctant and cautious of entering upon this business we must defer any further comments upon the matter until our next advices.

56. The subject of trade leads us to mention an address lately made to the Board by Messrs. Middleton, Aldersey, Floyer and Reed, who, after the receipt of your orders per *Mansfield* fixing all the Council except one at the Presidency, had for the reasons therein assigned entered into an agreement to prosecute their trade jointly in such of the articles of interior commerce as did not interfere with your investments, but instead of reaping from it the advantages they hoped for and which seemed to coincide with your intentions of granting to the Council resident in Calcutta the benefit of an open and free commerce throughout the country, they found their expectations frustrated ; and nevertheless that objections had been raised to their uniting in trade which had induced them to dissolve their engagement and having stated their case to the Board applied to us for redress. The President and other members not concerned, on perusing a state of the advances they had made which accompanied their letter, acquitted those gentlemen of having entered into measures that had any tendency towards a monopoly ; but how to grant them relief by supporting them in any trade that could be deemed a compensation as members of your administration deprived of the advantages of chiefships and employs was a point we could devise no means of effecting under the orders and limitations you have prescribed for your servants on this establishment.

57. We cannot describe the subject more amply than has been done in their letter which stands upon our proceedings and to which we beg leave to refer. It is certain that the agents employed out of the settlement, by the local influence inseparable from the very nature of their appointment and which is indeed necessary to give them the needful authority for regulating the revenue and making the collections, ever have and ever will enjoy superior advantages in commerce independently of their rank in your service, (which in the present case is of no consequence whatever) and it may be presumed it would not be prevented by any restrictions of trade without discouragement to men of integrity or giving others an opportunity of carrying on their designs by indirect means, especially when it could be done without oppres-



sion or beyond the reach of a discovery. We mean here to shew that notwithstanding it appears to have been your intentions of making a compensation to your Council by allowing them the privilege of a free and open trade, they are unable to reap the benefit of those intentions by the circumstances already mentioned, and indeed the more so since their having been deprived of the privileges of the *dustuck* which gives every native merchant a superior advantage in carrying on his mercantile concerns, who makes it an object of his attention without being fixed to any particular spot. Our situation however in this respect must, we apprehend, be without remedy so long as the continuance of Supervisors with the powers it has been thought proper to delegate to them for the security of the revenue, shall appear of utility and calculated to produce the advantages expected from their appointment.

58. From these causes it may be affirmed as a truth that the rewards of your service are really at this time inverted, and it is impossible for a member of the Board residing in Calcutta to provide for the expence requisite for the support of his station with propriety at the allowance at present annexed to it of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent commission on the revenue, it is future expectation only that gives him a prospect of reaping a compensation for long services. We speak feelingly on the subject, but we speak from experience, and with submission to your orders upon all occasions which, we trust, will clear us from presumption as your servants or the least want of respect or attachment from the liberty we have taken of placing matters in a just light, as we are persuaded that upon such a conviction it is not your intention to continue the members of your administration under circumstances inadequate to the labors of their station and their rank they have the honour to hold in the important charge of your affairs in this part of India.

59. The idea of an oppressive monopoly was so attached to the mode adopted some time since in the establishment of a Society of Trade in the articles of salt, beetlenut and tobacco for the emolument your civil and military servants of a certain standing that it would be with the utmost diffidence we should resume such a subject, were we not convinced that the matter was not seen and considered in its true colours. We hope therefore you will pardon the liberty of offering to you our further sentiments on that subject for your consideration; and whether the trade in one or more of those articles might not be established on such a footing as to yield that compensation you have been pleased to signify to us it was your intention to grant to the members of your Council here without meriting the odium which has been cast upon it.

60. Although the price of salt during the existence of the Society of Trade rose to 250 rupees per 100 maunds, yet to make it appear that the term of monopoly or tax distressful to the natives was rather apparent than real. We will only observe that supposing every man consumes half a *Chittack* of salt a day which is a full allowance it amounts to only about 1 anna a month at the aforesaid rate of 250 rupees per 100 maunds, and the pay of a laborer is from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 rupees per month. Such an increase of price in this commodity is therefore scarcely felt by the individual, and if necessary it might be restricted against exceeding that rate, or if the whole was sold at public sale at the two great marts of Calcutta and Rajahbarry in lots of a thousand maunds each, it would prevent any attempt of a monopoly or the price raised to so high a rate as to bear hard to the natives. At the same time it would be submitted to without

murmur except on the part of the native merchants in being excluded from so valuable a branch of trade. But they are most certainly entitled to consideration and ought to participate in the advantages of interior commerce. We would propose to leave them at full liberty to trade in the other articles of beetlenut and tobacco.

61. Should the exposition we have entered into upon this subject, which we can assure you is a just one, meet with your satisfaction and we have your permission to carry such a scheme into execution, it would render the collection of this branch of your revenue less precarious than it has proved while the salt trade has been diffused into a great number of hands. It would at the same time be gratefully considered as an ample compensation for the advantages the members of your Council here have been deprived of and an honorable reward held out to the line of your servants for long and faithful services when they shall rise to such important stations in the administration of your affairs at this Presidency.

62. We will here only add that whatever shall be your determination in consequence you may at all times rely on our unwearied zeal and diligence in the prosecution of our endeavours for the success and prosperity of your affairs.

63. The balance remaining this day in your treasury is rupees current 12,26,688-2-6 and the balance of the cash current rupees 41,239-1-0. The balance in the Moorshedabad treasury on the 31st ultimo was *sicca* rupees 9,15,891-5-6-3 and in the treasury at Patna on the 21st ultimo 4,27,682-3-6.

64. The amount of the *Asia* cargo is current rupees 9,51,600 and of the *Spike's* cargo current rupees 9,49,800.

Fort William,  
the 10th January 1772.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / Wm.  
Aldersey / John Reed / Joseph Jekyll /  
Thomas Lane / P. M. Dacres.

#### *Postscript*

1. Captain David Mackenzie, who commands one of the battalions of sepoy attached to the department of the Council of Revenue at Muxadabad, having been guilty of disobedience to an order sent him by the Chief Mr. Alexander was in consequence put under an arrest by that gentleman and a general court martial ordered to sit on his trial at Burrampore. On receiving a letter from the said Chief and Council relative to this gentleman's conduct while he held a command in the Rungpore District under the Supervisor Mr. Purling, we found a necessity of adding three more crimes to the original one for which he was put under an arrest, and directed the Judge Advocate General to prosecute him on the same accordingly. This trial, we are sorry to observe, has been spun out to an unusual length, the proceedings of which were not closed till the 13th instant, and are too voluminous to have an authentic copy taken to be sent home by the ships now under dispatch. It is with the

greatest concern that the issue of this trial has given us cause to remark that a spirit of reducing the authority of the civil power over the military seems to have prevailed too much among the members of this court, and instead of being governed in their opinion by the invariable custom of the service, they have stuck at nice distinctions and little points of punctiles, very immaterial to be attended on matters of the first importance. The Board unanimously disapproved the sentence, and would have ordered it to be revised had there been the least reason to suppose it would have produced a different one; but so much time having been already taken up to the injury of the service, and such a spirit of party seeming to prevail, we thought it most adviseable to dissolve the court, giving out at the same time in the general orders of Fort William the sense which the Government entertained of it, and informing the members who composed it that we should not have confined ourselves to a censure on their conduct, but have fallen on more vigorous measures of shewing our resentment, had we not reason to hope that some among them have had a true sense of their duty, and we on that account were unwilling to proceed to those extremities which must involve the innocent with the guilty. We must here observe that this court has thought proper to send a letter of censure to Mr. Alexander for disrespect to them in their public character; but we must do Mr. Alexander the justice to say that we do not find in any part of the proceedings that his behaviour, either as an evidence for the Crown or the prisoner, has given the least room to build any reprimand or, much less, one worded with so much acrimony.

2. Mr. Joseph Jekyll, one of our members, representing to us that the state of his affairs required his presence in England and desiring our permission to resign; we have granted the same, and he takes his passage on the *Spike*.

3. Mr. Peter Young, lieutenant fireworker, has had our permission to resign the service and return to England on the *Asia*.

4. Mr. Thomas Edwards, a cadet of the last season, has obtained our permission to resign and return to England on the *Spike*.

5. We have the pleasure of informing you of the safe arrival on the 18th instant of the ship *Clive*, Captain Allen, from Bombay laden with cotton on the Company's account.

6. We have granted leave to Major John Grant to return to England on the *Asia* as he deemed his longer stay here in expectation of the return of Major General Coote to be fruitless.

7. Mr. George Parker has also had our permission to return to England on the *Spike*.

8. Your commands signified to us in the 6th paragraph of your letter of the 10th April 1771 that a manifest of all private trade on board the Europe ships should be sent home in their respective packets, and that the boatswain's book of each ship when completed should be examined and signed by the Custom Master here, leads us to an observation as to the exact mode of complying with this regulation, which we apprehend did not at the time occur to your Honorable Court viz., that the captains and others who are entitled to your indulgence upon this occasion are for the most part under the necessity of putting off the provision of their homeward bound investment till they are just about leaving the place, and consequently seldom or ever send on board

what they do provide till themselves (the captains especially) are at the time the packet is sent down about to leave town, so that in this case each ship must be necessarily detained eight or ten days after being otherwise ready to receive her sailing orders, were we to have an exact account of the trade actually on board brought from Ingellec to Calcutta to be attested by the Custom Master and afterwards returned to the ship; and as the boatswain's book cannot be completed till every thing is on board that would occasion a delay of the same kind. We shall therefore give positive orders to every Company's servant who is sent down to dispatch the different ships to make out a manifest of the private trade whilst he is on board and forward the same under cover to your Secretary, as also to examine and sign his name to the boatswain's book which will, as it should seem to us, obviate the inconvenience we have mentioned and at the same time answer in full the intention of your orders upon this head.

9. We have granted by these ships the following sets of certificates *viz* :—

1 set dated 23rd December 1771 to Captain William Hambly, Commander of the ship <i>Lord North</i> , payable to himself for . . . . .	Current rupees 32,323- 3-9
1 set dated 23 December 1771 to Wm. Roberts, 1st Officer of the <i>Lord North</i> , Captain Willm. Hambly, Commander, payable to himself for . . . . .	2,885-15-9
1 set dated 23 December 1771 to Thos. Ereth, Second Officer of the <i>Lord North</i> , Captain Willm. Hambly, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	2,308-12-9
1 set dated 23 December 1771 to John Haldane, Third Officer of the ship <i>Lord North</i> , Captain Willm. Hambly, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated 23rd December 1771 to Edward Boyce, Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Lord North</i> , Captain Willm. Hambly, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,154- 6-6
1 set dated 23rd December 1771 to John Stewart, Fifth Officer of the ship <i>Lord North</i> , Captain Willm. Hambly, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	577- 3-0
1 set dated 23rd December 1771 to Alexander Hamilton, Surgeon of the ship <i>Lord North</i> , Captain W. Hambly, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated 23rd December 1771 to George Tilsley, Purser of the ship <i>Lord North</i> , Captain Wm. Hambly, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated 27th December 1771 to Edmund Bengough, Surgeon of the ship <i>Lord Holland</i> , Captain Fasham Nairne, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,948- 1-0
1 set dated 11 January 1772 to Captain Fasham Nairne, Commander of the ship <i>Lord Holland</i> , payable to himself . . . . .	36,363-10-0



1 set dated 11th January 1772 to James Doleman, Purser of the ship <i>Lord Holland</i> , Captain Fasham Nairne, Commander, payable to himself . . . .	Current rupees 1,948- 1-0
1 set dated 17th January 1772 to Captain Jeffery Jackson, Commander of the ship <i>Spike</i> , payable to himself . . . . .	32,323- 3-6
1 set dated 17th January 1772 to Tober Hall, First Officer of the ship <i>Spike</i> , Captain Jeffery Jackson, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	2,886- 0-0
1 set dated 17th January 1772 to William Jackson, Second Officer of the ship <i>Spike</i> , Captain Jeffery Jackson, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	2,308-12-9
1 set dated 17th January 1772 to Alex Milne, Third Officer of the ship <i>Spike</i> , Captain Jeffery Jackson, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated 17th January 1772 to Thomas Sikaah, Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Spike</i> , Captain Jeffery Jackson, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,154- 6-6
1 set dated 17th January 1772 to Anty. Jepson, Fifth Officer of the ship <i>Spike</i> , Captain Jeffery Jackson, Commander, payable to himself . . . . .	577- 3-0
1 set dated 17th January 1772 to Denet Court, Surgeon of the ship <i>Spike</i> , Captain Jeffery Jackson, Com- mander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated 17th January 1772 to John Thirkill, Purser of the ship <i>Spike</i> , Captain Jeffery Jackson, Com- mander, payable to himself . . . . .	1,731- 9-9
1 set dated 21st January 1772 to Captain John Allen, Commander of the ship <i>Clive</i> , payable to himself .	23,200- 0-0
<hr/>	
Current rupees 152,348-10-0	

Fort William,  
the 24th January 1772.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / W.  
Aldersey / John Reed / Joseph Jekyll /  
Thomas Lane / P. M. Dacres.

## SECRET LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1772

*Admiral Harland's opinion that the Company had no right to search foreign ships passing by its forts or batteries on the Ganges: Council's fear that the French might bring in military re-inforcements if this view prevailed—revenue collections.*

[ ] O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have but few particulars to enumerate in this Department since our last letter dated the 15th November by the *Morse* and those principally relate to our correspondence with the French.

2. As we have before mentioned to you we had referred to Admiral Harland for his opinion on a point of which we were doubtful, and before his answer arrived we received information from the officer commanding at the fort of Budge Budgeah of the master of a French pilot sloop having anchored his vessel immediately before the works, and not only refusing to move but attempting to seize the person who brought him the officer's repeated orders for that purpose.

[Letter?] 15th  
Nov. 1771.  
Para. 31.

Consn. 14th  
Decr.

3. This circumstance we represented to the French in the mildest manner expostulating on a conduct so contrary to the usage of nations and requesting of them to issue proper orders for preventing a repetition of it in future.

do.

4. Their reply was far from being satisfactory. They appeared offended at our sending people on board their ships, our right to which they disclaimed, and the practice whereof in future they threatened to oppose; and though they promised to renew the order which they said they had before given to their pilots not to choose by preference an anchorage under our fortifications, yet they did not give up their pretensions to the right of anchorage in every part of the river, which they claimed by virtue of their *phirmauns*.

Consn. 23d  
Decr.

5. To strengthen the first part of this declaration we about the same time received a letter from Admiral Harland in answer to our's on this subject giving it as his opinion that we had no right to stop or require the ships of France or any other nation to give an account of themselves in passing our forts or batteries, for that though the treaty of peace did not allow the French nation to keep any troops in Bengal, yet the navigation of the Ganges was as free to them as to us, and that until troops were actually landed it could not be said that there was any breach of the treaty in that respect.

Consn. 23d  
Decr.

6. He added that though this gave the French a power to break the treaty, yet as it was no part of the treaty that they should be subject to such conditions, we had no authority to compel them.

7. In this dilemma we must request your orders for our guidance. If the French have the right of anchoring their vessels in what part of the river they may think proper, they most assuredly will not let slip any opportunity of mooring under our fortifications, and by that means gain a perfect knowledge of the nature of their defences on the side of the river. If also their ships are to pass without any inquiry or hindrance on our part and the opinion of Admiral Harland is literally to be followed, the consequence must be that we can have no power of opposing a French fleet until it has passed all our forts and batteries, and we should thereby lose the advantage which the dangerous navigation of the river gives us, as well as the benefit expected from our fortifications in annoying and stopping an enemy in his passage up to Calcutta.

8. It is true that Admiral observes that had they landed troops or were there any certain information of such intention or should any other breach of the treaty on the part of the French give cause to suspect an attempt of this kind likely to happen or had we ground to apprehend a rupture between the two nations to be inevitable, then indeed the safety of the state might dictate other measures.

9. But supposing that the French fleet itself should be the first to bring news of the hostile intentions of that nation, must we, because no such circumstances as the Admiral has pointed out had occurred, and having had no power of searching and enquiring of any vessel of that nation, allow them to pass by our fortifications and batteries undisturbed and unmolested.

10. Consistent with our loyalty and duty we could not act in this manner; and yet when His Majesty's plenipotentiary in India is so very clear in his opinion in this matter, and which opinion appears to be so very opposite to ours, we could wish to proceed in such a manner as to give the French no opportunity of charging us with a breach of the treaty, at the same time to take every precaution against the attempt of so insidious an enemy.

11. Admiral Harland has desired copies of our correspondence with the French since the conclusion of those we transmitted to Sir John Lindsay. We shall accordingly on the dispatch of these ships prepare  
 Consn. 23 Decr. and send to him every paper necessary for his information of the situation of affairs between the French and us.

12. On a reconsideration of that part of your General Letter of the 10th April relative to the conduct you would wish to have preserved towards His Majesty Shah Alum and the negotiations with Sujah Dowlah, it was the opinion of some of our members that  
 Consn. 20th Decr. it ought to be executed by the Select Committee rather than by the Council as belonging to the former Department. On this matter being debated a question was put, whether it was your intention that the orders sent by you to the Council should be executed by them, and the majority was of opinion that conformable to your orders contained in the 180th paragraph of your General Letter by the *Lord Mansfield*<sup>1</sup> such parts as related to the politics of the country it was your intention should be referred to and executed by the Select Committee. The paragraphs in doubt were hereupon referred to the Select Committee Department.

13. By our separate proceedings you will be informed of our intention

to send the *Amazon* snow to the island of Mauritius to obtain a knowledge of the force the French may have at this time there, and we hope that by proper caution and address in the person to whom the execution of our design will be entrusted to, gain the knowledge we require and which you so strongly recommend to us.

Consn. 24 Decr.  
Separate.

14. Duplicate copies of the plans and drafts referred to in the separate proceedings which went home in our last dispatch, we have now the honor to transmit to you.

15. We are sorry to find ourselves under the necessity of apologizing for a very considerable mistake committed in the information we gave you as to the state of ballances of last year under the direction of the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad. It proceeded from inserting the amount of balances at the end of March for the balance of the year. We now beg leave to correct so considerable an error, and it is with pleasure we inform you that the net balance of last year's settlement of that Department amounts only to rupees<sup>2</sup> eighteen lacks thirty-eight thousand six hundred and sixty-one, four annas, two *gundas* and three *cowries*.<sup>3</sup>

16. We have likewise the pleasure to observe that the collections in each department of revenue are as successfully carried on for the present year as we could have wished; and from the favorableness of the season we have no doubt but they will be nearer compleated to the amount of their different settements than in any of the preceeding years.

17. The statement of the Bahar collections for the Bengal year 1178 or 1770/1 we have received since our last advices, and we find to our great satisfaction that they have amounted to rupees 43,61,651-6, exclusive of extra collections arising from the balances of former years, *tegavy*, profit on interest, and *batta* etc., which amounts to rupees 2,65,044-10-0. The total of the collections making the sum of rupees 46,26,695-10-6.

[Pro.?] 31 Decr.  
... Reve.

18. From whence it appears that the amount has exceeded the receipts in the preceeding year by rupees 4,25,747-9-3, not including the above sum received on account of extra collections.

19. The amount of balances remaining is Rs. 4,56,256-12-9, in which sum must be included *tegavy* lent amounting to rupees 1,02,000, which may be expected to be recovered in the succeeding year; and of the remaining balance some part will be collected, but we fear the greatest part is irrecoverable from the death of the ryots or the insufficiency of the renters. We have however given injunctions to the Patna Revenue Council to use their best endeavours for its recovery.

20. We have at the same time on the representation of the Supervisor of the district, the justness of which is supported by the opinion of the Council of Revenue and Sitabroy thought proper to remit the sum of 10,000 rupees due from the Champarun District, which arose from the charges of *sezawulls* as the *sezawulls* or persons appointed to superintend the collections on the part of Government were not placed there at the request of the renters, which is the usual method, and as their agreement stipulated that the sum fixed to be paid by them was to include all charges, notwithstanding which this sum was demanded from them by the Government on account of the maintenance of persons



whom they did not require, and whom it appears they did not want, having fulfilled their agreement for 190,000 rupees within 10,000 rupees, which balance the Supervisor makes little doubt of recovering, though the collecting of double that sum, he judges, would be attended with rigour and severity and perhaps ineffectually towards the debtors.

Fort William,  
the 10th January 1772.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / Wm.  
Aldersey / John Reed / Joseph Jekyll /  
P. M. Dacres.

## 32

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1772

*Relations with Vazir : steps taken to acquire Chunargarh ; concern over his employing more and more foreigners, particularly Frenchmen ; his alliance with Hafiz Rahmat Khan—Shah Alam's arrival at Delhi.*

[ ] O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have received through the channel of the Board extracts of your General Letter to them under date the 10th April 1771 from the 44 to the 53 paragraphs as they had a relation to matters that came more immediately in the province of your Select Committee, and you may depend that every attention shall be paid to the subjects on which they treat.

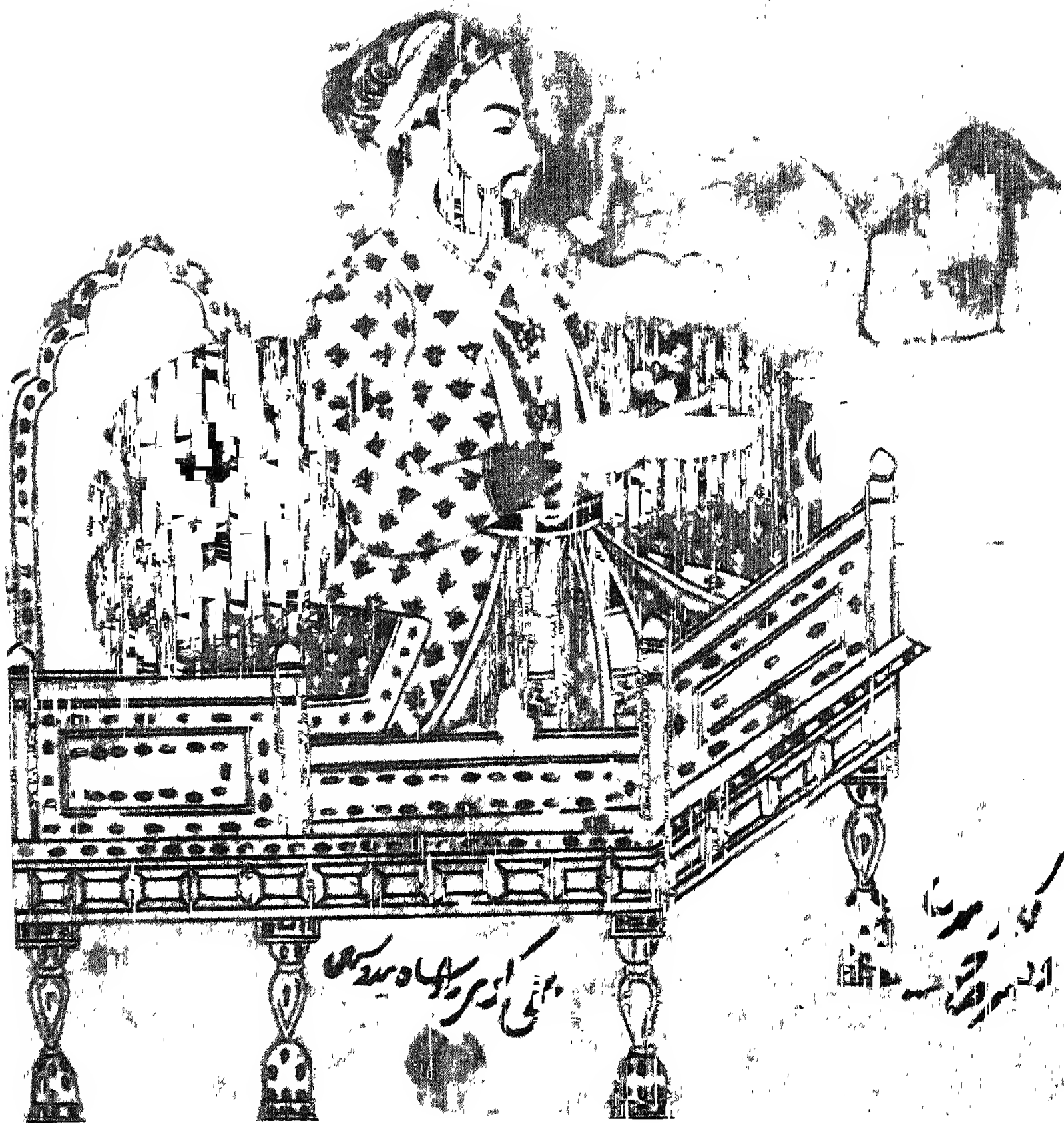
2. The King's march from Allahabad renders the execution of the orders contained in the 44, 45 and 46 paragraphs impossible, unless indeed the exigency of his affairs should oblige him once more to throw himself upon our protection ; and this reason will also extend to your instructions in the 47 paragraph.

3. We are happy to find your sentiments respecting the cession of Chunar Gur so perfectly coincide with the measures we have pursued to accomplish this event, and General Barker has been directed in the course of his negotiations with the Vizier on this subject to proceed on the plan you have recommended. Chunar Gur is certainly a very principal object ; but as we have for more than three years retained a garrison there and can whenever the necessity of the times may require throw what body of men in it we please, we have in fact every advantage from it as if formally delivered up to us.

4. The great encouragement that His Excellency gives to Frenchmen and fugitives of all nations to enter into his service is become very alarming. A perfect model of the fort he intends building has been finished by a French engineer at Fayzabad

Pro. 6 Decemr.  
L.R. 105, 109, 110.





Shah Alam

in a masterly manner, and an altercation which has arisen lately between His Highness and Captain Harper (a particular relation of which is entered upon our proceedings) is expressive of the favourable sentiments he entertains towards the natives, of France in particular, and in what light he considers them. Every possible precaution has been taken to prevent as much as lay in our power the emigration of these vagrants from the provinces ; and as this evil calls for the utmost exertion of administration to put an entire stop to it, we shall not fail to make the most serious remonstrances to the Vizier upon this occasion, and we flatter ourselves that though reluctantly he may be induced to lessen the number of Europeans in his service, and if his pride cannot be brought to consent to this, his prudence may point out to him the impropriety of increasing them.

5. You will observe by Captain Harper's letters, which are very full and explicit, that the Vizier in conjunction with his new ally Hafez Rhamet, the Rohillah, has taken an abundance of caution against any design the Morrattahs may form against their possessions, as they have threatened him lately to dispossess him of the post he enjoys in the Empire without he instantly joins the Royal Standard but it is probable the disputes among themselves and the contrariety of their sentiments respecting the conduct they purpose observing towards Zabeta Cawn will prevent their giving him any material disturbance. However the loss of the *Vizierhut*, it is certain, must follow his disobedience.

6. From the private intelligence received by the President His Majesty arrived at Shahjehanabad on the 6th instant. The period cannot be distant that will enable us to decide with a certainty what change this event will occasion on the politics of the country powers.

7. It is with infinite concern we find by the advices from the gentlemen of Fort St. George that they are upon the point of engaging in an expensive and troublesome war with the Mhorattahs. Such measures have been taken by the Board respecting supplies, remittances etc., as must in the prosecution of it prove of the greatest support and assistance to them.

8. We have the pleasure to transmit to you our annual proceedings for 1771 and a broken set from the dispatch of the *Morse*, together with a complete set of letters received and sent and the country correspondence for the last year.

We are,  
with the utmost respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,

John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / W,  
Aldersey.

Fort William,  
the 23rd January 1772.  
(Per *Spike*  
Duplicate per *Asia*)



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1772

*Acknowledgement of advices received by the Colebrooke.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

We have the pleasure to inform you that since the closing of our dispatches we have received advices of the *Colebrooke* being arrived in Balasore Roads. The packet has not yet come up.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,

Fort William,  
the 27th January 1772.  
(Per *Asia* and *Spike*  
Triplicate per *Lord Holland*)

Your faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Sam. Middleton / W.  
Aldersey / John Reed / Joseph Jekyll /  
Thomas Lane / P. M. Dacres.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1772

*Shipping news: arrival of Hastings and assumption of office as second member of the Council.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have now the pleasure of dispatching to you the *Lord Holland*, Captain Nairne; but as by the desire of the Fort St. George Presidency she will call there to receive such advices as they may have in readiness for her, we have deemed it most expedient to dispatch her immediately with merely the papers of her cargo; and by the *Rochford* we shall convey to you our proceedings and other public papers, as well as the letter under the established heads.

2. The *Colebrooke* arrived here the 30th ultimo. As she did not touch upon the Coast, we forwarded her Fort St. George packet by a country vessel bound to that port.

3. The *Minerva* schooner returned from Fort St. George on the 17th instant having Mr. Hastings on board who took his seat as second of our Council on this day.

4. Mr. Alexander at the same time requested our permission to resign the service. He proceeds on this ship to Europe.

5. Mr. Floyer has likewise taken his passage on the *Lord Holland* for England having, as he informed us, previously applied for permission from the President and Council of Fort St. George to resign the service.

6. We have granted leave to Mr. James Grant, a writer on this establishment, to return to Europe for the recovery of his health; as this young man has behaved himself to our satisfaction, we beg leave to intercede in his behalf, should he find himself sufficiently restored to solicit your permission to return with his standing in the service.

7. Mr. Robert Alexander, a free merchant, is likewise a passenger.

8. The Reverend Mr. Joseph Baines to whom we signified your orders concerning him has requested and received our permission to proceed on this ship to Madras on his way to the West Coast.

9. We have the satisfaction of informing you that the *Asia* and *Spike* left their pilots on the fourth instant.

10. Mrs. Elizabeth Martin who came out on this ship has obtained leave to return on her to England.

11. Messrs. Richard Barwell, James Lawrell have since our last advices taken their seats at our Board, and the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Jekyll has been filled up by Mr. Henry Goodwin, the next in succession.

12. We have permitted to be shipped on the *Lord Holland* 3 bulses of diamonds valued at rupees 28,074-10-7 and consigned by the Honorable the President to Messrs. W. B. Sumner and Stephen Lawin, London.

13. The balance in your treasury at Moorshedabad on the 13th instant was *sicca* rupees 23,04,534-8-5, and at the Presidency on this day current rupees 26,34,663-12-0. The balance of cash on this day is curent rupees 24,033-5-0.

14. The amount of this ship's invoice is current rupees 8,53,300.

15. We have granted by her the following sets of certificates:

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1 set dated 24th January 1772 to John Fast, First Officer of the ship <i>Lord Holland</i> , Captain Fasham Nairne, Commander, payable to himself.            | 3,246-12-0 |
| 1 set dated 24th January 1772 to Thomas Lloyd, Second Officer of the ship <i>Lord Holland</i> , Captain Fasham Nairne, Commander, payable to himself.        | 2,597- 6-0 |
| 1 set dated 24th January 1772 to Mr. Adam Little-John, Third Officer of the ship <i>Lord Holland</i> , Captain Fasham Nairne, Commander, payable to himself. | 1,948- 1-0 |
| 1 set dated 24th January 1772 to William Swan, Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Lord Holland</i> , Captain Fasham Nairne, Commander, payable to himself.        | 1,298-11-3 |

1 set dated 24th January 1772 to John Hughes, Fifth Officer of the ship *Lord Holland*, Captain Fasham Nairne, Commander, payable to himself.

649- 5-9

1 set dated 11th February 1772 to Captain John Allen, Commander of ship *Clive*, payable to the Reverend Dr. John Allen of London.

9,123- 3-6

Current rupees

18,863- 7-6

Fort William,  
the 20th February 1772.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Warren Hastings / Wm.  
Aldersey / John Reed / P. M. Dacres /  
Thomas Lane / James Lawrell / Rich.  
Barwell / H. Goodwin.

P.S. We have since closing the letter permitted a bulse of diamonds to be shipped on the *Lord Holland* and consigned to Mr. Claud Russell by his attornies and valued at current rupees 7,397-2-0.-

## 35

## SECRET LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1772

*Revenue collections : abolition of the custom of hal-bhanjan.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We have done ourselves the honor of addressing you from this Department on the 30th August and 15th November 1771 and the 10th January 1772. In the two last we had the pleasure of informing you of the amount of the several settlements of the revenues for the present year, that for Midnapore excepted. We have now the pleasure to acquaint you that it amounts to current rupees 10,24,828-15, which is an increase upon the settlement of the former year of Rs. 9,000, and the Resident has also stipulated for the remaining half of the 27,000 Rs. which he remitted to the farmers in the time of the famine.

2. This increase is to no great amount ; indeed, as the value of the lands in this province has been so nearly ascertained, any great increase in the settlement could not be expected.

3. There will however appear a deficiency of 1,90,000 rupees on account of the abolition of a custom termed *haul-bungen* or a breaking in upon the

new year's rents. It is in fact a forestalling of the revenues, two or three months of the succeeding year, which sum is brought into the amount of the collections of the present one to supply the deficiency made in it by the same method having been practised the year preceeding. This custom on account of its pernicious tendency as being deemed oppressive and unjust to the farmers and ryots and occasioning a fallacious statement of the revenue has been already abolished in the other parts of the country, and though the Midnapore revenues for the present year would thereby be lessened we determined on rooting it out of that province.

4. By this practice the farmers were obliged to advance their rents to the zemindars long before they became due, and yet not being allowed interest on these advances they became considerable losers. The zemindars also had it in their power to distress their tenants by increasing the amount at which the *haul-bungen* had been settled in order to make up deficiencies in their rents or to answer any sudden or pressing demands upon them.

5. We hope that the collections throughout the provinces will be well kept up, having issued strict orders for having particular attention paid to this business by all the servants employed in the Revenue Department.

We are,

Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,

John Reed / P. M. Dacres / Thomas  
Lane / Rich. Barwell / James Lawrell /  
H. Goodwin / Walter Wilkins.

Fort William,  
the 9th March 1772.

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1772

*Shipping news: survey of the Ganges; complaint against the Captain of the Rochford; the affair of Dundas at Pegu—trade and investment: supply of bills and specie to Bombay; supply of grain to Madras to overcome scarcity; Coja Samey's claim for compensation—relations with neighbouring powers: prohibition against trade with Oudh lifted; territorial claims against the Goorkha Raja Prithwi Narayan and the decision not to precipitate a fight—revenue collection: need for punitive action against the Raja of Ramgarh: inadvisability of employing pargana sepoys on political expeditions; Company's servants not guilty of exporting or cornering rice during the late famine; Nabob's troops engaged in revenue work to be increased—buildings and fortifications: explanation relative to Watson's brick contract—accounts and personnel: Capt. Mackenzie's case—Mayor's Courts: request for dastaks from the Mayor and Aldermen of Calcutta turned down; dismissal of Cater from the office of Alderman and his appeal to the King in Council—Navy Donation, Nawab's donation to the army, treasury balances etc.—postscript: Court*



*requested to reconsider its order to revert to the system of providing investment through dadni merchants ; position in respect of raw silk investment.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. The several letters we have had the honor to write to you since the departure of the *Mansfield* (the last ship of the last season) are as follows:

- 1 dated the 30th August 1771, per *Stag* frigate ;
- 1 dated the 15th November, per *Morse* and *Ponsborne* ;
- 1 dated the 10th Jany. 1772, per *Asia*, and *Spike* ;
- 1 dated the 27th do . . . , per ditto ;
- 1 dated the 20th February, per *Lord Holland* ; duplicates of all which except the last have otherwise been forwarded.

2. The *Rochford* being fully laden and ready for dispatch, we take the opportunity of forwarding by her the annual books and papers of this Presidency, and at the same time of entering into a detail of such occurrences as have happened since our last advices, or have been reserved for this our address under the established heads.

*First, of shipping*

3. By advices from Fort St. George we have been informed of the arrival of the *Britannia* at Anjengo, and we have received your commands under date the 12th June 1771.

4. We have also received from the Fort St. George Presidency copy of your General Letter to Bombay with several other papers all relative to the intended establishment at Balambangan and shall most undoubtedly give every assistance in our power to promote the success of a measure which you appear to have so much at heart.

5. The *Lord Holland* received her final dispatches on the 28th of last month with a full lading from hence, and we hope will have a favorable passage to Madras where, at the request of the President and Council there, she is to call for advices.

6. The Select Committee having intimated to us a request made to them by the President and Council of Fort St. George for one of our pilot sloops, the *Cuddalore* schooner has been appointed for this service and to remain under the orders of that Presidency.

7. The *Harland* schooner has been built at Bombay and sent round here for the service of our marine. The cost of building her amounts to 22,714 rupees.

8. A survey of the river according to annual custom was made by the Master Attendant in June and July last, his report whereof stands in our Consultation of the 9th September 1771.

9. A petition was presented to us lately by Mr. John Stevenson, Chief

Mate of the *Rochford*, setting forth that the Captain had dismissed him from his station on his passage from Madras to this place and requesting a scrutiny might be made into it at our Board.

10. For that purpose a committee of three of our members was appointed to enquire into the circumstances of this complaint, from whose report it did not appear to us that Mr. Stevenson had merited such severe treatment at the hands of Captain Hunt, or indeed that he had been in any respect culpable; and we therefore thought it a piece of justice due to him that he should be restored to his station.

11. We also considered the Captain as deserving of our reprehension for not having laid before us an account of this proceeding on his first arrival, for even had there been sufficient grounds for Mr. Stevenson's dismissal, it undoubtedly was Captain Hunt's duty to inform us of his having taken such a step that under our approval a proper person might have been appointed to succeed to the station of his chief officer.

12. Application has been made to us by Captain Nairne for payment of a bill for cloths and necessaries which he supplied the recruits on board his ship in his former and present voyages; but as he could produce no authority from you for making such advances and the charge was not customary, we could only refer him to his owners that the propriety of such a claim might be adjusted in England.

13. We had a like application from Mr. Parrot, the Purser of the *Colebrooke* on account of slops delivered to the recruits on that ship by the desire of Sir Robert Fletcher, who granted the Purser a draft on us for the amount. Sir Robert also wrote to us on the occasion. Although Mr. Parrot's plea appeared better founded than that of Captain Nairne's as the former acted at the particular desire of Sir Robert Fletcher, yet as we could not deem ourselves authorized to discharge it, we directed the Purser to apply to you on his return to England.

14. In our letter by the *Lapwing*, as also in our annual letter by the *Verelst* and *Worcester*, we laid before you a detail of our proceedings with respect to the *Brittania* snow sent to us from Pegu by Mr. Dundas, and informed you of our resolution to wait the arrival of the *St. Helena* before we determined on accepting or refusing the bills drawn on us by Mr. Dundas for 12,000 rupees.

15. The *St. Helena* arrived here in July last; and as by the Captain's instructions from the attorney of Gregory Avass it appeared that both the ship and cargo were consigned to us from other advices that the cargo was the same that had been provided by Captain Justice when last at Rangoon, we resolved upon taking her on the Company's account, and accordingly directed the cargo to be lodged among the Company's stores and the vessel to be disposed of at public sale, where she was bought by Captain Hugh Mackay for Ct. Rs. 13,110.

16. We have discharged the bills drawn on us by the attorney of Gregory Avass on account of repairing and fitting out the ship, which bill included the one drawn on us by Dundas and was mentioned in our advices by the *Lapwing*.

17. Being now free of every disagreeable embarrassment by the return of the ship with the Captain and officers, we shall endeavour to liquidate the just demands which Dundas may have on the Company in the most equitable manner; and we do apprehend that he himself now, deprived of the power of seizing any part of your property or of oppressing any of his countrymen in your service, will be glad to submit the demands in dispute to arbitration.

18. By a letter received from Johannes Moses at Rangoon it should seem that Dundas, and Gregory Avass, who throughout the whole of this affair has appeared a partner with Dundas in all his proceedings, are reduced to a very low state; and as Johannes Moses has always acted as a friend to the English, we entertain hopes that our trade to that port may be settled upon a better footing than it has been for some years past during the government of Dundas and his associates, when some of the English were not only plundered of their property but had violence used to their persons.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe, or from one part of India to another*

19. Our endeavours for raising the sum required by the Bombay Presidency for this season have not been answerable either to our wishes or expectations. We were earnestly requested by the Governor and Council of that settlement to supply them with 14 lacs of *sicca* rupees as early in the season as possible; and as the exportation of specie was if possible to be avoided, we desired the Council of Moorshedabad to procure bills for the whole amount. The utmost however that they could get a promise of was but 7 lacs, and that at the exorbitant rate of 100 Moorshedabad *siccas* for 98 Surat rupees<sup>1</sup>. These terms we accepted and received bills to the amount of 4,50,000, which were immediately forwarded to Surat. Others to a trifling amount, we procured at the Presidency and discharged drafts made on us by Bombay and Surat for near 2,50,000 more.

20. We have reason to fear that the Moorshedabad merchants will decline giving drafts for their remaining 2,50,000 rupees which they had promised. The balance therefore now remaining in favor of Bombay is no less a sum than 6,72,166-3-11. However we shall do our best endeavours either by bills, remittances in specie, or goods sent round to comply with the full of their demands before the end of April.

21. The gentlemen of Bombay desired that we would send them goods in part of the remittances, for which purpose they transmitted a price current of such as would best answer there. But notwithstanding the *cottah* has been open now three months for the reception of goods of those assortments, none have yet been offered, and the extent of our supply in that way will, we fear, be confined to about 2 lacs of rupees in raw silk purchased at the Presidency.

22. It has always been our aim to afford all the assistance in our power to your other settlements considering them equally with our own as conducive to your interests. But we feel too much for the distress this country has already suffered from the diminution of its currency to venture on a further reduction of it.

23. On a representation from the Presidency of Fort St. George in December last that they were threatened with a scarcity of grain, we thought it

expedient, in order to guard against the inconveniences to be apprehended from such an event, to advertise that proposals would be received for the delivery of a certain quantity at Fort St. George on or before the 20th May, on condition that it should be paid for by us in Company's bonds to bear interest from the day it should be delivered at that Fort. Proposals were in consequence given in for transporting the quantity of 130,000 maunds, which we accepted at the rate of 5½ Arcot rupees per bag, each bag to contain two maunds; almost the whole of the rice has been shipped, and we hope will arrive at Fort St. George within the time limited in our advertisement.

24. As this supply could not however be deemed adequate to the wants of that settlement should any great scarcity be felt there, we encouraged the exportation of grain on private account by a publication promising that the amount of the export duties should be repaid to the owners on their producing certificates from the Custom Master at Fort St. George of the grain having been landed and vended at the place, and we hope by these means their occasions will be amply provided for.

25. As it has been found beneficial to the trade of this port to supply such vessels as are obliged to put in at Chittagong through stress of weather or want of stores with what they might stand in need of to enable them to prosecute their voyage, we complied with an indent from that factory for naval stores principally designed for that service. But considering that your interest ought not to suffer by measures adopted merely for the public benefit, we direct the Naval Storekeeper to invoice the stores at an advance of 25 per cent, and we ordered the Chittagong factory to issue them at an advance of 15 per cent on the invoice in consideration of the expence and risk in transporting them thither, and of their remaining in the warehouse perhaps for a considerable space of time.

26. We have the pleasure to inform you that at the general sales of your imports which were made the 24th May and 7th November last an advance was bid of 10 per cent on the copper and 2-13 per cent on the lead on copper in the last year's sale, and a further advance of 6 per cent on the lead on the sale in November on the one in May. The woollens, particularly the Aurora Broad Cloth, sold nearly at the same rate as at your general sale in May 1770. But we flatter ourselves when the trade is better established in the Nabob Sujah Dowlah's dominions that the demand will not only be in some measure increased, but the price on each article raised.

### *Thirdly, of the investment*

27. The Committee of Commerce referred to our determination a claim on the Company made by the family of Coja Samey at Patna on account of a loss they sustained by the fire which destroyed the Patna factory in 1767, when a quantity of cloth which their agent had provided in part of the Company's investment and had delivered to the Chief and Council was consumed. From the enquiry made into it by the Committee of Commerce it appears that the principal part consisted of ferret or rejected cloths which had been detained in the warehouse as a security for the outstanding balances then in his hands and amounting to 20,715-3-6 rupees that the remainder was cloth he had brought in but which had not been priced.



28. Whether the detention of the ferret cloth in your warehouse as a security for the balances represented to us to be due from Coja Samey at that period makes you subject to this loss is a matter of some doubt, but we are rather inclined to think it does unless it was voluntarily on his side consented to. The family further represent that on their application to Mr. Rumbold, he promised to acquaint the then Governor with it. Yet as the accident happened so long since, and as the great change of servants at the Patna factory prevents our gaining a clear knowledge of the truth of this affair, we have declined coming to a decision until a further insight can be obtained.

29. We have at the instance of the Committee of Commerce written to the Fort St. George Presidency for information of the manner in which their manufacturers prepare the red dyes, used in dying their cloths, as from its superior colour and brightness it would, if introduced into this country, be the means of enhancing the value of our manufactures.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India, country government and  
European powers*

30. We had before the receipt of your orders for opening the trade into Sujah Dowlah's country determined on adopting the measure. Experience had convinced us of the great detriment which had accrued to the commercial interests of our employers from the closing of so considerable a channel through which the staple imports had for some years before found a conveyance to the provinces situated to the northward of your possessions. We were induced to pursue this measure from the consideration of another object of equal importance we mean the hopes of increasing our currency by means of the specie brought into the country by the merchants for the purchase of silk, as well as the return for the goods disposed of in Sujah Dowlah's country which used to be principally in specie.

31. Public notice was therefore given of the trade being laid open, and information of it was sent to the several factories and residencies with orders for the same being made public.

32. As we judged that this freedom of trade would prove beneficial as well to Sujah Dowlah as to us it gave us some concern to find from a letter addressed to us by General Barker that it had not met with the Nabob's approbation. Various were the reasons urged against it; but the principal one appeared to be the danger of a breach between him and us from the disputes that might arise between his people and the *gomastahs* or agents employed by the merchants in the disposal of their goods or from their refusal to pay duties, their forcing his *chokeys* or oppressing his people.

33. He likewise pointed out how much the balance of trade would be against him by the exportation of specie from his dominions, and as the means of obviating those objections he proposed that no person should trade in his country without his license a method by which he should know who were the traders, and would have it in his power to limit the trade.

34. To this representation we desired General Barker to set forth in reply that we allowed no *dustucs* to pass beyond our provinces, and that we considered all the traders and their agents as amenable to his Government in cases

of misconduct, that we doubted not but he would give encouragement to the merchants and not suffer more than the established duties to be levied, and that as a few general regulations would prevent any inconveniencies we hoped that the mutual advantages arising from it would obtain his approbation of the measure.

35. As the General observed that the Nabob's not having been consulted upon the occasion might have induced him to raise<sup>2</sup> many of the objections appeared very probable, it will be necessary to remark that the usual time for making the Company's sales was too near to allow of our consulting with the Nabob and answering such objections as he might have started. Moreover as the treaty with him in 1765 gave us a right to vend the Company's imports throughout his dominions, which were the principal articles of our commerce with his subjects and the principal aim of our designs, we judged it sufficient to inform him of the measure we had taken, which was accordingly done by our President.

36. To consult with a person on a plan to which you are certain of his making objections, and which you are likewise determined beforehand to carry into execution, could only be considered in the light of a mere complement, which indeed we would willingly have paid the Nabob, if, as we have already observed, there had been time sufficient for that purpose; but as that was not the case we immediately determined on a measure, the delaying of which would have been prejudicial to your interest; and we informed the Nabob of having done what the treaty entitled us to, and a privilege which though it had for some time been suspended still remained in force.

37. In July last we were applied to by the Council of Revenue at Patna on the subject of some *pergunnahs* which though in the Consn. July 9th. possession of Pertenarain, the Goorka Rajah<sup>3</sup>, by usurpation a few years since, yet belonged properly to the province of Bahar, to the *soubah* of whom they had for a long series of years paid an annual tribute.

38. It was proposed by the Council of Revenue at Patna to re-annex these *pergunnahs* to the Bahar province as their being left in the hands of the Goorka Rajah brought a troublesome neighbour too near us and weakened our northern barrier towards the hills. They likewise urged the smallness of the tribute in comparison to the profits they would yield in our possession, the inconveniences our districts bordering on these *pergunnahs* were exposed to from a desertion of their inhabitants on account of the easier rents collected by the Goorka Raja on those *pergunnahs*, which had become an asylum to thieves and robbers, who from thence issued forth and plundered the adjacent districts under our jurisdiction.

39. The reasons they produced appearing very sufficient for considering those *pergunnahs* as part of our possessions, and it appeared from thence that the Goorka Rajah had obtained them by unlawfully dispossessing the former Rajah whose ancestors had for many years paid a regular tribute to the *subah* of the Bahar province, yet as a war with the Goorka Rajah would have been productive of many inconveniences and attended with great expense, as the damage which probably would ensue to the other districts of the Bahar province from the depredations of the Rajah, who is remarkable for an active and

enterprising spirit, might materially affect the collections, and as probably the advantage arising from the possession of these *pergunnahs* would scarcely be adequate to the expense of the expedition of the troops which we must of necessity keep in that country to prevent the constant incursions of his people.

40. For these several reasons, we declined entering on this expedition for the present. We however directed the gentlemen at Patna to be watchful in

Consn. Aug. 10. keeping up our claim to these *pergunnahs*, and to attend to the regular payment of the annual tribute as an acknowledgement of their dependency on the zeminderry of Tirhut. For though our claim for the present lay dormant we by no means gave up the right which it plainly appeared we had to them<sup>4</sup>.

41. We hope these reasons will appear to you in the same light and that you will not disapprove the resolution we have taken of preserving peace in our territories unless we should be driven to contrary measures by the conduct of the Goorka Rajah.

42. We fear however that we shall be obliged to undertake an expedition against Muckund Sing, the Rajah of Ramgur<sup>5</sup>, situated to Consn. Jany. 3d. the south west of Bahar, whose incursions into the *pergunnahs* adjacent to him and neglect in the payment of his annual settlement have for sometime past been subjects of complaint.

43. But as we would studiously preserve tranquility throughout the provinces we have directed the Patna Council to use their endeavours for settling matters with him in an amicable manner, and leave him unmolested if he will give security for his future good behaviour and for the payment of a sum of money yearly to the Government according to an equitable settlement of the revenues of his country.

44. Should the Rajah come into these measures we shall with great satisfaction lay aside all thoughts of hostilities against him.

45. In consequence of an expedition which had been set on foot by the Chief and Council of Revenue at Patna against the fort of Burrarea we received a remonstrance from the General pointing out the impropriety of employing *pergunnah* sepoy on such services whilst the brigades remained unemployed in their cantonments. As the reasons set forth by the General appeared to us to be very just we resolved to confine the *pergunnah* sepoy to the business of the collections and to employ the brigade troops on occasional expeditions for which they were better adopted from their superior discipline. We therefore forbade the employment of the *pergunnah* battalions in any service of that nature, and directed the Councils of Revenue, whenever an expedition should in future be resolved on against any of the rajahs or zemindars, to apply to the commanding officer of the brigade nearest to them for such a force as from their representation he might judge sufficient for the purpose; but we directed that these detachments should be placed under the direction of the Council of Revenue that no disputes might arise where two distinct authorities interfered.

46. From the several answers of the Patna, Dacca, and Chittagong factories and the Burdwan Presidency to the letters we wrote to them in conse-

quence of your orders for an enquiry into the names of the persons who had exported rice from the different districts during the famine and the quantity exported, we have reason to hope that you will be satisfied with the conduct of your servants during that calamity. Indeed from every circumstance that has come to our knowledge we can venture to assure you that not any European could have taken the advantage of the necessities of the inhabitants by dealing to any amount in that article during the continuation of the famine. What methods were practised to enhance its price and to hoard it up must have been by the natives themselves, who too often insensible to the dictates of common humanity grasp at every opportunity of profiting by these practices notwithstanding every endeavour for the prevention of it.

47. Had any of your servants or others been guilty of such malpractices, we should have considered it our duty to have taken proper notice of it by the severest marks of our resentment.

48. Your several orders relative to the administration of justice have been circulated throughout the provinces, but a strong objection offers itself to the extending of the mode of arbitration. That as the persons chosen for arbitrators are in general merchants or tradesmen who are obliged to neglect their own business on this account and who receive nothing for their trouble they will naturally be remiss in their attendance; and the persons concerned will suffer as much from this dilatory method if not more than from the expenses incurred by a trial at the courts of justice.

49. To oblige these arbitrators to give due attendance, considering the disadvantage it must be of to them, would be a real hardship and perhaps the means of ruining many of them. We have therefore directed the several subordinates to consider of some method which may encourage the natives to take upon them the office of arbitrators and to execute it free from that delay and dilatoriness to which they appear so very subject.

#### *Fifthly of fortifications, buildings and revenues*

50. The Military Committee having called upon Colonel Campbell to lay before them a state of the fortifications, the same was referred by the Committee to the Board in its Secret Department. The report, which comprehends the works already finished and what yet remains to be done to complete the whole, is entered on the proceedings of that Department, which make a number in the book packet.

51. Finding the establishment of sepoy's for the service of the revenue collections to be insufficient, and unwilling to add to the present too great expense of the military, we had in agitation a plan for raising four new battalions to be paid and clothed by the Nabob. His present body of troops, on which is expended the whole of his allowance for his guards and retinue amounting to 15 lacks of rupees being nothing better than an undisciplined rabble, and as the expense of those four battalions would not have exceeded 5 lacks of rupees, a considerable balance would have remained in his favor. Of these battalions 3 could have assisted in the business of the collections,



and the others would have been fully sufficient for the purpose of guards to the Nabob.

52. We had requested our President to address the Nabob and Mahomet Reza Cawn on this subject, and by setting forth the advantages that would accrue to the former from such a change, to gain their consent to its taking place, when your orders by the *Lord Holland*<sup>6</sup> arrived for reducing the Nabob's stipend to the sum of 15 lacks of rupees. So considerable a reduction in his allowance induced us to drop the scheme.

53. The Chief and Council of Chittagong proposed to us as the means of  
 Consn. [...]                      reducing the expense of reparations at their factory to have  
 August                              a regular monthly sum fixed for the repairing of each of  
    of the buildings there, which would by this method be kept  
 in constant repair by the servant who occupied them, and there would accrue  
 a saving to the Company.

54. But as we judged it improper to make an innovation on the old established customs, which upon the whole would not be more advantageous, provided the servants fully discharged their duty, we declined giving our assent to this proposal.

55. On the expiration of the brick contract for the last year the former contractor offered proposals to the Military Committee for contracting for the ensuing season upon the same terms. As the terms of the contract were un-animously approved of last year and the contractor in fulfilling it had laid under some material disadvantages from a failure in the assistance promised him by the Government, the Military Committee considered him as a person entitled to a due consideration in the present one. They at the same time received proposals from Major Watson for contracting for all the bricks wanted by the Company during the excavation of his wet dock on the same terms as had been granted to the late contractor, excepting that he desired no payments of money on presenting his bills but that the amount of them might be carried to his credit in the same manner as the money he as constructor of the docks was allowed to pay into the treasury.

56. Although by the Company's standing orders that no servant either civil or military should be allowed to have a contract Major Watson's proposals might with propriety have been rejected, the Committee, through a desire of promoting the undertaking of the docks, consented to his having half the contract for the present year on condition of his not interfering with the other contractor's people.

57. Such an indulgence instead of being thankfully accepted was rejected by Major Watson on pretence of his being unable by the prohibition of his interfering with the other contractor's people to undertake his half of the contract, though it was well known that during the former year he had made a very considerable quantity of bricks on his own private account, and when the people now refused him were all engaged in the service of the Company's brick contractor.

58. Further to engage us to accept his proposals he represented that a refusal would be the means of retarding his works as the speedy excavation of the wet dock depended on his being in possession of the brick contract, and that in case the Company should purchase the docks there would be a

total saving to them of the excavation of the wet dock, since he did not design to carry it to the account, should his proposals be accepted, by which means the price of the bricks would be greatly reduced. And he concluded with insinuating that he should hold himself blameless on account of any prejudicial consequences to the public from the docks not being fit for receiving His Majesty's ships through our refusal of his proposals. Extraordinary as this concealed threat appeared to be, we on a reference from the Military Committee consented to Major Watson's having half of the people belonging to the other contractor in hopes of removing every plea of obstruction or difficulty in the pursuit of his undertaking.

59. This condescension appeared to encourage him to proceed in his scheme of engrossing the whole of his contract. He refused our offer on the pretence of its being impracticable to divide the workmen; and to induce us to enter into his plan, he offered either to make no charge for the excavation of the wet dock in case of a future purchase, or to make the charge and to receive but 5½ Rs. for every thousand bricks. He declared that in consequence of our refusal nothing but his public zeal and reliance upon your support would prevent him from changing his plan from that of constructing docks for the reception of His Majesty's ships to erecting only such as might be fit to take in the country vessels, and requested that his proposals with the answers might be referred to you for your determination.

60. Had Major Watson's arguments weighed with us according to his wishes it was not at that time in our power to grant him the whole contract unless by a breach of our engagement with the former contractor, as the contract for the other half had been finally adjusted. And as Major Watson positively refused accepting less than the whole, we offered the other contractor the half which had been rejected by Major Watson upon the same terms as the part he already had, which he accepted.

61. In this case we were menaced by an individual with having the heavy odium thrown upon us of retarding a public undertaking unless we complied with the whole of his offers. Our zeal in passing over a standing regulation through a design of encouraging this scheme was to be considered as nothing unless it could actuate us to break our engagements as a public body made with another person, and every concession we yielded was productive of a more peremptory refusal. When we consider the nature of the reasons urged by Major Watson we shall find they were rather drawn from some new project for his private emolument than founded on any part of his plan at the first projection of it. The President's minute tells us that this was never intended when the work was begun; and indeed it would be natural to suppose that had it been otherwise the Major would rather have secured the brick contract by a representation to the Board of the utility of such a measure at the commencement of his undertaking than have left so material a part of his design to the very moment of the conclusion of the contract with another. It would be paying an ill compliment to Major Watson's known understanding to conclude that he had been so very remiss and neglectful in so essential a particular.

62. But waiving this remark, what great advantages are these which he first offers. They are founded on an uncertain event, which not happening, his proposals are not more advantageous than the other contractor's. Yet did we testify the desire we had of promoting an undertaking which promised to

be of public utility by offering him a contract for nearly the quantity of bricks he mentioned in his estimate. We endeavoured to remove every obstacle he had raised, by which we put him on a better footing than the other contractors from the addition of the brick makers which he had entertained on his private account.

63. What want of zeal or public spirit can we be accused of in proceeding to these lengths were we to shew public zeal by a breach of public faith, and yield every point however unjustly to Major Watson through a desire of assisting him in a scheme he had newly formed for his own advantage. For, let it be supposed that from the completion of the fortifications or from some other cause we should not have been in want of bricks for the Company ; in such a case Major Watson's plan would have been retarded, the public would have been prejudiced, and his reputation would have suffered severely. What would have been the opinion of such a man's foresight who could engage in so extensive, so important an undertaking, depending on so precarious a contingency. Yet this is the real case in fact, and it is heightened by his obstinate refusal of half the contract because he cannot obtain the whole, when by the acceptance of it, according to his own statement of things, he would so greatly benefit himself in point of pecuniary advantage, and the public by continuing his works.

64. To conclude, we cannot charge ourselves with being the cause of any retardment to Major Watson's undertaking, since we went as far as the bounds of our duty would admit to forward and promote it. Whatever may have been his views, whether his motives were those of public or private interest, our assistance was offered through an inclination to encourage a work that promised to be of general benefit ; and if we can be charged with any appearance of partiality, we must confess that it was more in favor of Major Watson than of the other contractor, for we had in part accepted the latter's proposal before our offer of half the contract to the former, and we granted Major Watson one half of the workmen after they had all been previously made over to Mr. Robinson.

65. We are concerned at dwelling so long upon this subject ; but when it is considered that a public body is attacked by an individual and that the retardment of a public work is laid by him to their charge, we hope we shall stand excused in endeavouring to exculpate ourselves from so heavy and so unjust an accusation.

66. Rajah Murlidur, who had been formerly Chief of the Nabob's  
 Consn. May 24th. *hurcarras*, and has since then had the charge of the *dauks*  
 at Patna, was murdered by one of his domestics. His  
*jaghires*, as they had been granted for the support of his station, we directed  
 to be resumed, and in lieu thereof we granted an allowance to his cousin and  
 Consn. 15th Oct. son-in-law who succeeded him in his post of 1,000 rupees  
 per mensem.

67. The Resident at Midnapore reporting the decayed state of the terrass  
 round the walls of the fort under which were the godowns for the Company's  
 Decr. 3rd. cloths, the same was surveyed by the Deputy Civil Archi-  
 tect ; and his report agreeing with the Resident's, we directed  
 the latter to commence on a new terrass, and to be careful of its not exceeding

the estimate made by the Deputy Civil Architect, which amounted to 13,500 rupees.

68. The Resident having represented also the necessity of having a new pallisade round the fort within the dry ditch, we have directed an estimate to be formed of the expense; and as it is a work that does not appear to us immediately necessary, we shall if the estimate amounts to any great sum postpone the execution of it for the present.

March 9th.

69. We were addressed by the Moorshedabad Revenue Council, on closing their books to the end of April 1771, regarding several heads of entries, which they were of opinion should be written off to the account of profit and loss for reasons therein assigned. Among these was the balance of the collections for the year 1176 amounting to Rs. 16,83,876.

70. But as we did not deem ourselves authorized to take such a step without your previous approbation, we directed them to carry this balance to a separate head in their ledger, namely, balance of 1176, and to carry to the credit thereof such sums as might hereafter be received on that account, and we desired that the same method might be pursued with the balances of the succeeding years.

71. The several other articles appearing to us to come very properly under the head of profit and loss, we directed them to be written off, excepting the sum of 2,000 Rs. expended in *coolie* hire for carrying firewood to burn bricks at Burrampore cantonments, which as it ought to be included in the expense of those cantonments, we directed to be repaid by the Cossimbuzar factory to the Moorshedabad Council, and ordered the former to debit the Burrampore cantonments for the amount.

72. After receiving into the treasury, upon condition of granting bills of exchange when it should be open for that purpose, to the amount of CRs. 16,21,419-14-7, we judged that this, together with our other supplies, would be sufficient to answer our exigencies for some time, and therefore put a stop to any further receipts on that account.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenanted servants and accounts*

73. The vacancy at our Board occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Alexander has been filled up by Mr. Walter Wilkins, the next servant in succession to Council.

74. Our proceedings on the 30th January will present to you an address from Major Grant drawn up in such terms as renders it incumbent on us to point to those particulars which may bring the subject it treats of before you in its true light. Had that gentleman confined himself merely to the object he says he had in view, the detection of illicit practices, by a fair and candid representation, we should have had nothing here to offer; we should have waited for the proof or disproof of the misconduct attributed to Messrs Lawrell and Purling, and have submitted their actions to you, who would have judged them by that indubitable test.

75. The sentiments we entertain of Mr. Grant's letter which charges the above named gentlemen, whose characters hitherto have been unexcep-



tional with the grossest misdeeds are expressed upon our records of the 30th January.

76. Upon Major Grant's letter being read at our Board Mr. Lawrell immediately repeated a request he had preferred in an address to the Board of Revenue of the 2nd November last desiring that they would be pleased to investigate the ground of every insinuation which might be dropped to his prejudice and vindicate his character from injurious imputations. We, in consequence, enjoined your Council at Moorshedabad to be attentive to this request in the course of their enquiry into Captain Mackenzie's conduct, and to call upon that gentleman to support every article of recrimination he might directly or indirectly urge to the detriment either of Mr. Lawrell or of Mr. Purling. The papers enclosed in Mr. Grant's address we at the same time transmitted to Moorshedabad, and ordered your Council there to pursue every measure that might tend to elucidate the matters alluded to and enable them to give us particular information relative to the 1,20,000 rupees charged to Bowanny Metre, Mr. Lawrell's servant, to Conjubeharry Holdar, the *banian* of Captain Mackenzie: and as soon as we are furnished with what may be material for your information, we will forward it a number in one of our future packets.

77. In consequence of our orders some time since issued, the complaints of the zemindars and inhabitants of Rungpore against Captain Mackenzie have been heard by our Council of Revenue, and the examination of the several evidences on oath as far as it is complete makes a number in the packet. The letter from Moorshedabad which accompanies a copy of this examination gave at the same time information that Conjubeharry Holdar and Ram Ramnundee were just arrived, and that the Chief of the Durbar had judged it proper they should remain at Mootigill until their examination had been taken. The correspondence which followed from Captain Mackenzie on this occasion is worthy [of] your particular attention. You will find him there contending to fix an imputation on the Government that his servants have been imprisoned in order to influence their evidence to his prejudice; he asks, "What kind of evidence can be expected from black men treated in the manner they have been?" and observes, "he should not be surprised if their minds were poisoned and Bengalee like take to that side where power prevails." In opposition to these injurious and most unjust suggestions appear the very gentle and candid measures taken by your Chief and Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad, who have found themselves both delicately and disagreeably situated between the risk of losing the opportunity of arriving at the truth and fixing the guilt of crimes of so heavy and pernicious a nature and drawing upon themselves the charge of too great severity towards the accused.

78. The lenity and moderation observed in the course of the proceedings of the Council of Revenue upon the complaint against Captain Mackenzie is certainly justified by the obstacles they have had to encounter. But while we approve that caution with which they have obviated every insinuation Captain Mackenzie might throw out questioning the candour of their investigation, we think such caution improper when it has in any respect risked the loss of an opportunity to arrive at the truth.

79. Upon the Moorshedabad letters being read at our Board and upon mature deliberation thereon, we determined to suspend all further proceedings

in the enquiry which had taken place into Captain Mackenzie's conduct, and therefore approved of Conjubeharry Holdar's being sent to his master. The spirit of exception which appears throughout Captain Mackenzie's conduct determined us in like manner to afford him an immediate opportunity of exhibiting the proofs Major Grant informed us he had to support his accusation; and we were led to this resolution by observing that the evidence on the proceedings held on Captain Mackenzie was very strong and pointed with respect to Conjubeharry's guilt in his transactions at Rungpore; and had the examination proceeded and that man been condemned, Captain Mackenzie might possibly have urged it as a reason for not supporting Major Grant's charge. We therefore judged it would be least exceptionable upon hearing of Conjubeharry Holdar's arrival at Moorshedabad to direct your Council there to call upon Captain Mackenzie to prove the particulars set forth in Major Grant's letter, and it was to be the first and only object they were for the present to attend to.

80. The irregularity of the address from Major Grant is too striking to escape the observation of your honors. He appears not to have even the most remote concern in the grievances which he prefaces with so much pathetic and declamatory language. He possessed no trust which could either afford him a means of obtaining a knowledge of them, or which might excite his duty or gratitude to bring them to light. He was not even a servant of the Company's, and but a temporary sojourner in the country which he was on the point of quitting. What then were his motives for thus stepping forth a voluntary advocate for oppressed innocence? It would be an abuse of candour to attribute his zeal to justice or humanity. The part which he acted was repugnant to both, for he could not know that the facts were true on which he grounds his attack on the characters of Messrs. Lawrell and Purling. Yet he loads them with every reproach that can debase human nature; and by labored invectives against other perpetrators of rapine and oppression without applying them to particular facts or persons, he has involved every man invested with authority in the same suspicion. Such a conduct implies neither humanity, justice, nor honor. We make no scruple to declare that he was impelled to it by the pure dictates of interest and resentment—his interest in the fortunes of his family which were endangered by the criminal charges preferred against the husband of his sister, and resentment against his accusers. His address to the Board prolix as it is contains not a single fact, but harrangues only on the allegations contained in Conjubeharry's petition. This needed not an introduction, or if it had, Captain Mackenzie, Conjubeharry's master, was undoubtedly the proper person to give it. But the imputations which he at that time lay under through the means of Messrs. Lawrell and Purling would have given his intervention too much the air of recrimination, or of an artifice to elude the course of justice by throwing the suspicion on the credit of his accusers. The name of Major Grant was therefore subscribed to the letter as that of an uninterested spectator who felt for the sufferings of his fellow creatures and the injury which the honour of the Company had sustained from such violences of their representatives. Had we regarded only the plain line of the service, we should have been contented to receive and record the complaint of Conjubeharry, and rejected the letter of Major Grant as officious and unnecessary, not to say injurious in many expressions to the Government. But we rather chose to receive it, because we know not what

construction might be put upon the suppression of a paper which seemed big with such important discoveries. We shall afford Captain Mackenzie and Conjubeharry every opportunity of supporting the allegations against Messrs. Lawrell and Purling, and as soon as we receive from the Council at Moorshedabad the informations we expect, we shall take into immediate consideration their purport, and after having investigated every particular finally determine thereon. We have been thus explicit in offering our sentiments on this performance for two reasons, the one because our suffering the Company's records to be swelled with so much unnecessary matter required an apology, the other because the tenor and style of the letter are evidently calculated to create doubts and suspicions which for want of application may operate to the injury of almost every individual in the service. We trust however in your candour and justice that the conduct of your servants will be judged only by the clear evidence of facts.

81. On Major Green's arrival we appointed him to the rank in the artillery next to Lieutenant Colonel Pearse. With this appointment he however seemed dissatisfied. Judging that from your orders for his taking rank next to Lieutenant Colonel Winwood he had a claim to the command of the artillery as that gentleman was returned to England, but finding that our sentiments of this matter differed from his, and your confirmation of Lieutenant Colonel Pearse destroying his hopes, he applied to us for the rank of a Lieutenant Colonel in the infantry in the room of Lieutenant Colonel Winwood in which we acquainted him that it was not on our power to acquiesce.

82. We are sorry that an officer of Major Green's merits should be dissatisfied with our conduct towards him ; but we cannot help observing that his expectations of superceeding Lieutenant Colonel Pearse appear extraordinary when it was well known to him that Lieutenant Colonel Winwood's pretensions could not be admitted, and much more unreasonable did Major Green's appear. The supercession of an officer of superior rank by one in an inferior one and the removal of him from his command which he had held with credit for a considerable space of time were measures which we own ourselves surprised at Major Green's entertaining an expectation of our adopting.

83. The rank we fixed him in was the same as he would have enjoyed had Lieutenant Colonel Winwood been the commander of the artillery and the same as your orders directed that he should hold.

84. We must therefore acquit ourselves of having injured Major Green in having declined to gratify expectation which appear to us to have no foundation in equity or justice.

85. He has since applied for and received our permission to proceed to Fort St. George for the purpose of arranging the military stores at that Presidency.

86. In our address by the *Spike* of the 10th January last we informed you of Mr. Cottrel's intention of addressing the Board on the occasion of his recall from Dinagepore and of our intention to transmit it to you together with our remarks by the annual ship.

87. We now beg leave to inform you that the letter which Mr. Cottrel delivered in containing recriminations on the conduct of the Moorshedabad

Council and even implied accusations against them, we judged it necessary to transmit copies of them to that Council and to call upon the gentlemen for the defence of their conduct.

88. When it arrives we shall lay before you a particular detail of the whole of the proceedings with our opinion and resolution thereon, which we hope will be by the latter ships of this or the first of the ensuing season.

89. Your orders for recalling Mr. Palk to the Presidency were issued immediately on their arrival. It is a matter of great concern to us to meet your disapprobation of our measures, and the more so in the present case where we imagined that your free restoration of Mr. Palk and your directions for his being employed wherever he might be found most useful had also restored him to the same privileges as others of his rank and standing in the service.

Genl. Letter 19th  
Sept.

90. As you however direct that he shall remain at the Presidency till he shall have given testimony by his future conduct to be worthy the trust we by his appointment reposed in him, we beg leave to offer to your consideration an address to us from Messrs. Alexander and Jekyll, the two late Chiefs of Patna. Their testimony of his good conduct will, we hope, have a due effect upon you, and incline you to a more favorable opinion towards him.

Consn. 13 Jany.

91. It appearing from a representation made by Mr. Thomas, a surgeon on your military list, that he had suffered a hardship by having been appointed to take rank under two surgeons after his having enjoyed a brevet as full surgeon two years before either of their appointments, we thought proper to restore him to his proper rank above them.

Consn. 13th Jany.

92. Your orders for having all duties abolished in the military bazars were communicated to General Barker. His reply thereto will we hope fully convince you of the General's being clear from any imputation of that kind. And such officers as may not have strictly attended to the prohibition (of which we must do them the justice to say we know of none) issued in 1766, to the same purport will, we doubt not, be cautious of disobeying your positive orders, which we shall be careful to enforce and support.

Consn. 9th Oct.

93. Having called on Mr. Alexander for an explanation of the terms upon which he had disposed of the lead to Mr. Lloyd at the sales in 1768, we received his positive declarations of having never given Mr. Lloyd the assurance that gentleman mentions in his letter to us in January 1770. We have, therefore, in consequence of your orders, applied to Mr. Lloyd to fulfil his engagement and make good to us the amount of the purchase.

94. An application was made by Lieutenant Colonels Ironside and Campbell for having that share of the commission on the revenues which was appropriated to the corps of lieutenant colonels confined to the eight oldest, who were the number fixed for the establishment, instead of being divided among the whole eleven, three of whom were supernumeraries, or for an equivalent being allowed to the former to make good the deficiency which they suffered by the three supernumeraries sharing with them. Our reply informed them of our having acted according to your orders and of our being unable to make any alteration therein.



95. An address from Lieutenant Colonel Pearse of the Artillery Corps was transmitted to us through General Barker, wherein he applied in the name of the whole corps for an abolition of the rank of captain lieutenant which by making the rise to that of captain so very slow was the cause of repeated supercessions by the officers of the infantry.

96. In a matter of such importance we judged it proper to obtain the General's sentiments on the proposed alteration before we came to a determination as deeming him the best qualified to point out the propriety or impropriety of the request.

97. The arguments made use of by General Barker for the continuance of the rank of captain lieutenant appearing to us well founded, we determined on making no alteration in the corps, where though an officer must wait a longer time for the rank of a captain than an officer of infantry, yet his advantages when he attains that rank are greatly superior.

98. The great distance many of the Supervisors are from any factory or Presidency and the difficulty of procuring the assistance of a surgeon in case of illness has induced some of them to apply for having one  
 Consn. June 10th. appointed. We have accordingly in consequence of two applications appointed two surgeons to that service each of whom has the care of three supervisorships.

99. Mr. Stewart, of whom mention was made in the 160th paragraph of your commands dated 10th April 1771, is arrived here, and shall be appointed to the office you have directed him to be stationed in. The great abilities shown by Mr. Murray as Deputy Judge Advocate of the tryal of Captain Mackenzie induces us to recommend him to succeed to Mr. Stewart.

100. A remonstrance was received through General Barker from Major Hannay on a supercession which he said he had suffered by Major Eyres  
 Consn. March 1. appointment to his present rank. As this was a point which could be determined by you alone, we thought it proper to give Major Eyres an opportunity of asserting his own pretensions in reply to Major Hannay's application, and we beg leave to refer the whole to you as it appears on our Consultations noted in the margin.

101. Lieutenant Friend, who is a brevet officer on this establishment, delivered to us a memorial setting forth the length of his services, the many supercessions he had suffered, and entreated to be promoted to the rank of a captain that he might retire on the pension. As we were sensible his request was unreasonable we declined complying with it, for this person who complains of being superceeded by serjeants was a private trooper in the body of horse that deserted to us from the French army many years ago and served us for some time in that capacity.

#### *Eighthly, of Charter*

102. The Mayor and Aldermen presented to us a public address setting forth the trouble and laboriousness of their stations, representing that no benefit whatever accrued therefrom, on the contrary that a great part of their time was devoted to the public to the prejudice of their private affairs, and in consi-

deration of these circumstances requesting the privelege of *dustucs* during their stay in office.

103. As we deemed it improper that a judge should be liable to the imputation of being swayed by interested motives in the execution of his office, and considering it was an obligation on every individual to promote the welfare of that community to which he belonged, we informed the court in answer that we declined complying with their request, but that it would be referred to you.

104. We soon after received two letters from four of the Aldermen requesting that their names might be erased from the address as they had subscribed to it inadvertently and had no intention of having it referred to your determination.

105. On that part of the Mayor and Alderman's address which says "We are the more encouraged to lay our request before the Honorable Board having some time ago found that each individual member approved of it," we cannot but be of opinion that those gentlemen have fallen into an error in supposing because the members of the Board as individuals did not think proper to signify their disapprobation of their proposed address that therefore they approved it, for we are persuaded that none of the Council have been so inconsistent as to encourage that Mayor and Aldermen in the hopes of obtaining the privilege of *dustucks*, which they well know could not be granted to them.

106. Mr. Robert Saunderson has been elected Mayor, and Mr. George Bright, Sheriff for the present year.

107. The Mayor's Court having exhibited a charge against Mr. Joseph Cater, one of the Aldermen, as set forth in our separate proceedings which you will receive by this packet, Mr. Cater was made acquainted with the same and ordered to appear before the Board on the 27th January to make his defence. Mr. Cater in consequence represented to us that the day appointed to hear him not giving him sufficient time desired he might be indulged with some days longer and that summonses might be sent to certain persons to attend whose evidence he might have occasion to call for. The Board accordingly allowed him to the 10th February; and after an attentive hearing of the parties and a full consideration of all matters for and against Mr. Cater, the majority of the Board were of opinion the Mayor's Court had fully established their charge against Mr. Cater, and considering him therefore to be unworthy of his office he was accordingly dismissed from the same. Separate proceedings of this matter containing copies of all papers laid before the Board by the Mayor's Court and Mr. Cater's defence are forwarded by this ship and we must now advise you that Mr. Cater has thought proper to appeal to the King in Council against the judgement of the Board.

### *Supplement*

108. The agents to the Navy Donation on the expiration of the time stipulated by you for payment of the 2nd moiety applied to us for the same. As our treasury would not admit of so large a deduction, we informed them that we would grant them interest bonds for the amount.

109. A second application from them requesting bills of exchange for the

amount upon the same condition as those we granted for the first moiety or  
 Consn. interest notes conditionally that they should be exchanged  
 March 4. for bills before the end of the year. As we were unwilling  
 to lay ourselves under an obligation to grant them bills whether the treasury  
 should be opened or not, we renewed our offer of interest bonds and promised  
 them bills should we have occasion to draw on you.

110. This offer they accepted, but at the same time desired that we would indemnify their constituents should they become liable to the penalty of 10 per cent in consequence of their drafts in favor of the French Council at Chandernagore not being discharged in the same manner as we had done with respect to the first moiety. To this we replied that as their non-acceptance of the bills for the 2nd moiety had been an act of their own, we must decline complying with their desire, but offered to make the interest notes bear date and interest from the 1st January when the payment became due.

111. As in their answer they asserted that our refusal to pay them cash for the first moiety and our positive prohibition of their making over our bonds to the French had deterred them from accepting the bills for the 2nd moiety, we acquainted them that they were at full liberty to dispose of those bonds as they thought fit.

112. To this measure we were induced by the consideration that it would not be attended with any of the inconveniences which we were before apprehensive of from the delivery of the bonds to the French.

113. To conclude, the agents consented to the acceptance of the bonds on condition of having bills granted when the treasury might be open, and we have received no further applications on this subject.

114. Their endeavours to make us the occasion of their refusing acceptance of the bills for the 2nd moiety were very improper, as they had taken that step entirely of themselves without previously enquiring of us whether in case of their refusal we would consent to indemnify them for the penalty, or whether we meant that the bonds for the amount of the 2nd payment were to remain under the same restraint as those for the first.

115. We also received an application from the attorney to the agents for the Nabob's donation for payment of a balance of current rupees 1,16,017-13-9,  
 Consn. [...] 13th. which by the account he delivered in appeared to be due to them. As by the proceedings it appeared that the agents had applied to the Board for payment of the sum of *sicca* rupees 1,25,545-8-0, which sum they expressly mentioned in both their applications to be the balance of the Nabob's donation to the army, which sum the account laid before us by their attorney points out to have been received by them, we could not consider the Company as liable to any further demands and therefore refused payment.

116. It appears from this account (the only one we could refer to, the greatest part of the money having been paid by the Nabob Meer Jaffier before our possession of the *Dewannee*) that the 25 lacks donation is set down in *sicca* rupees which amount to 29 lacs of current rupees, and that the several species of rupees in which the payments were made are greatly undervalued. Even the same species such as *sonauts* are rated in some payments at 11 per cent *batta* and in others at  $9\frac{1}{4}$ .

117. This latter method must have made some difference in the amount, however not by any means equal to the balance now demanded; and from whence the remainder arises except from a mistake in the former demand of the agents we are at a loss to determine. As the matter stands at present, we cannot be justified in paying this demand when by the account itself the sum applied for by the agents as the balance of the donation money has been received by them, our own books as before observed giving us no insight into it to guide our resolutions.

118. The medicine which you sent out by the *Lord Holland* as a remedy for the dysentery has been tried at the Presidency and the army, but we do not find from the surgeon's reports that it possesses those virtues which are ascribed to it. Whether the quantity might be too small for a trial appears to be a doubt with our Chief Surgeon.

Consn. Febry 6th.  
March 9th.

119. A discovery has been made by Captain William Justice of a rock in the latitude of 11.12 North. By his accounts it is very dangerous to shipping, being not above 8 feet in height, and the sea breaking over it continually.

120. For a more particular account we beg leave to refer you to our proceedings.

121. In compliance with your orders in your General Letter of the 27th June 1770 we called upon the administrator to the estate of the late Mr. Hunt to deposit the amount thereof in the Company's cash on being granted bonds for the amount. His answer promises a ready compliance as soon as the bonds he now has are renewable. His request for bills for 200 £ Stg. as a remittance for the education of the heir to the estate, we could not comply with as the treasury was not open.

122. The long roll of the European army at this Presidency for the year 1770 being amongst the papers lost in the *Verelst*, we now beg leave to transmit another copy delivered in by the Town Major.

123. Mr. Thomas Lyon who had been for some years employed as an indentured carpenter in the new fort has our permission to return to England on the *Rochford*. His request for a certificate of his services was not granted as it ought rather to have been made to those under whom he immediately served than to us.

124. We have granted leave to Captain Jonathan Ramsay to proceed to Europe on the *Rochford*. Copies of the certificates granted him to entitle him to the pension, we send numbers in the packet.

125. The Military Pay Master General's Books to April 1771 cannot be got ready to go by this dispatch, but we hope to send them on the next ship.

126. Duplicates of the papers from the Mayor's Court and from the Fort Major's office which were on board the *Verelst* are sent numbers in the packet.

127. We have sent home on this ship on the terms of charter-party Mr. Jefferson, an ensign on this establishment who has been for some time confined in our hospital as a lunatic and has been pronounced by the surgeons to be incurable.



128. We have licensed on this ship the bulses of diamonds valued at current rupees 17,716-13-9 consigned by Mr. Thomas Motte to Mr. Charles Bathurst in London, a register of which makes a number in the packet.

129. The balance in the treasury at Moorshedabad on the 28th ultimo was *sicca* rupees 18,41,163-1-7-3, and at Patna on the 29th ultimo St. [Sonaut] rupees 6,63,612-9-9. The balance of your treasury here this day is current rupees 24,20,120, and of the cash, current rupees 15,609-4-5.

130. The amount of this ship's invoice is current rupees 8,69,100.

131. We have granted by this ship certificates according to the following register.

Register of certificates per ship *Rochford*, Captain William Hunt, Commander.

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	Ct. Rs.
1 set dated 4th March 1772 to Allen Cooper, } Second Officer of the ship <i>Clive</i> , Captain } John Allen, Commander.	Himself	2,308-12-9
1 set dated the 5th March 1772 to Captain } William Hunt, Commander of the ship } <i>Rochford</i> .	Himself	18,000- 0-0
1 set dated the 6th March 1772 to Captain } Arthur Morris, Commander of the ship } <i>Colebrooke</i> .	Himself	32,323- 0-0
1 set dated 6th March 1772 to H. Pascall } Chief Officer of the ship <i>Colebrooke</i> , Cap- } tain Arthur Morris, Commander.	Himself	2,885- 0-0
1 set dated 6th March 1772 to Richd. } Edwards, Second Officer of the ship } <i>Colebrooke</i> , Captain Arthur Morris, Com- } mander	Himself	2,308- 0-0
1 set dated 6th March 1772 to John Coggon, } Third Officer of the ship <i>Colebrooke</i> , Cap- } tain Arthur Morris, Commander.	Himself	1,731- 0-0
1 set dated 6th March 1772 to John Ladd Fen- } ner, Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Colebrooke</i> , } Captain Arthur Morris, Commander.	Himself	1,154- 0-0
1 set dated 6th March 1772 to Ambrose } Dickens, Fifth Officer of the ship <i>Cole- } brooke</i> , Capt. Arthur Morris, Commander.	Himself	577- 0-0
1 set dated 6th March 1772 to John Parrot, } Purser of the ship <i>Colebrooke</i> , Captain } Arthur Morris, Commander.	Himself	1,731- 0-0
1 set dated 6th March 1772 to Thomas } Cooper, Surgeon of the ship <i>Colebrooke</i> , } Captain Arthur Morris, Commander.	Himself	1,731- 0-0

## Register of certificates, per ships CLIVE and ROCHFORD

To whom granted	To whom payable	Ct. Rs.
1 set dated 6th March 1772 to John Stevens, Chief Officer of the ship <i>Clive</i> , Captain John Allen, Commander.	Himself	2,885- 0-0
1 set dated 14th March 1772 to John Stevenson, Chief Officer of the ship <i>Rochford</i> , Capt. William Hunt, Commander.	Himself	2,885-15-9
1 set dated 17th March 1772, to Capt. William Hunt, Commander of the ship <i>Rochford</i> .	Himself	14,000- 0-0
		<hr/> Current rupees 84,519-12-6 <hr/>

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Warren Hastings / W.  
Aldersey / John Reed / P. M. Dacres /  
Thomas Lane / Rich. Barwell / James  
Lawrell / H. Goodwin / Walter Wilkins.

Fort William,  
the 9th March 1772.

## Postscript

1. In our address of the 15th November by the *Morse* and *Ponsborne* we acquainted you of the measures we had taken for the security of an investment for the returning ships of this season and that we wished rather to exceed than fall short of your order for seventy lacs to compensate in some measure for the disappointment you would suffer by the unhappy fate of the *Verelst* last year. We have now the pleasure to add that with the assistance of private purchases made this year to the amount of about nine lacs we have been enabled to make a provision of near seventy five lacs, whereof the cargoes of the six ships dispatched to this time consist of fifty-five, and the remaining twenty will be consigned to you by the *Clive* and *Colebrooke*, which we hope to get away early in the next month.

2. We come now to speak on the subject of your orders dated the 10th of April last received by the *Lord Holland* for reverting to the former mode of providing an investment by *dadney* merchants. In our letter of the 10th of January last by the *Spike* and *Asia*, we mentioned our having in consequence of those orders advertised for receiving proposals both here and at the subordinates; and such as have been delivered in being first digested by the Committee of Commerce were submitted to us for our final determination.

3. At the first view we may pronounce of these proposals without distinction that instead of being adapted to the salutary purposes intended of giving freedom and increase to trade they have a direct contrary tendency. The offers are not from a number of individual merchants that might render such a provision diffusive [?] at a moderate advance for their trouble and risk, but from a body of men whose requisition imply a monopoly, and that too upon

very extravagant terms which appear to be merely calculated to benefit themselves not only to the manifest injury of the trade here but to a certain and heavy loss upon your sales at home. These are the obvious and principal objections to which the proposals of the merchants are exposed upon a general view of the matter. If we descend to particulars many may be enumerated such as the immediate loss of the greatest part if not the whole of the balances due from the weavers ; the certain loss of 25 per cent on the amount of the investment, supposing that the weavers (which the merchants represent to be necessary) are allowed an advance on the present price of their cloths of 5 per cent ; the debasement of the manufacture, a probable if not the certain consequence of providing by contract, if we are to judge from past experience, instead of leaving the door open to such improvements as may be recommended ; a deficiency of the quantity contracted for, as they were never known to furnish the quantity stipulated in the provision of so extensive an investment.

4. Your orders for resuming the mode of *dadnecy* being positive, we should be the more cautious of the least deviation from them. But when we consider that by an adherence to the letter of those orders under the circumstances already described the spirit of them would be totally lost, we are convinced that we shall stand justified in your eyes for considering ourselves to be under the necessity of suspending the execution of them until it can be done in a manner more consistent with your immediate interest and the general good of the country. In the mean time we flatter ourselves and are indeed persuaded that the spirit of your intentions will be better fulfilled by the establishment of regulations as with every degree of vigilance and circumspection on our part shall appear to be adapted for the attainment of those objects which you have so powerfully recommended, namely the improvement of your investment and the general freedom of trade.

5. And here we may remark that had we by the abolition of the present mode of providing your investment the least prospect of removing any evils that may be existing, it would require much time and consideration to effect such a total change in a mode established by the practise of near twenty years, and in a branch so very extensive, and at any rate could not well have taken place so suddenly after the receipt of your commands by the *Lord Holland* as the short time then remaining for entering upon the new year's investment.

6. For a more explicit and comprehensive view of the subject now before us we beg leave to refer to the proceedings had on this occasion, which make a number in the packet. By them it will appear that we have been guided in our idea of the loss that would be sustained upon the sale of the different articles in Europe by the calculates which Mr. Guinand, the Superintendent of our Export Warehouse, has formed from his own knowledge and experience, and the particulars with which he has been furnished of the September sales in 1770.

7. We always considered that part of the investment which consisted of raw silk as the most valuable and having the first claim to our attention. It is therefore with much concern we observe by the estimates made by Mr. Guinand upon that article that it must be supposed to turn out in general to so considerable a loss on the price at which it is now provided here. With respect to the country assortments, although the contracts made the two last years were at so very high a rate, yet the merchants instead of making any abatements

have rose in their demands for the price of it this year, a circumstance we can only account for from the concurrence of these two causes; first, a scarcity of this article as a necessary consequence of the famine in 1770, which by all accounts swept off multitudes of that cast of the people whose profession it is to breed the silk worms; and secondly the obstinate influence which for several years past has been acquired by the *pycars* or brokers over the *chassors*, and which there is too much reason to suspect is still secretly existing, notwithstanding all the endeavours we have employed for its removal. And, as our agents upon the spot must from their intimate knowledge of local circumstances be the most competent judges of a remedy for this evil, we have with that view directed the Chief and Council of the Cossimbuzar factory jointly with that of the revenue at Moorshedabad to take the subject under their particular consideration, and to employ such measures as to them shall appear the best adapted for the relief and promotion of the silk investment.

8. We have in our former letters given intimation of the progress made by the Superintendents Mr. Wiss and Mr. Robinson in the establishment of the new mode of winding. The superiority of it to the country methods is obvious, as at one operation from the pod it is capable of producing silk of any letter, at the same time that its strength and colour are preserved, and it is free from that foulness which is peculiar to the lower assortments, in particular of the country silk, and which must so materially affect the sale of it in Europe. The natives are sufficiently expert in acquiring the European manner of reeling, but still there are many obstacles to its immediate success, although such are naturally to be expected upon the introduction of any sudden change, especially in a country where the people are attached with so much bigotry to ancient customs. It is however apparent from the remarks of Mr. Guinand already referred to that even under these disadvantages it turns out to better account than the country assortments at the price now paid for them, the silk reeled off according to Mr. Pouchon's method being estimated at a profit of seven per cent, and that of Mr. Robinson's at a loss of nearly one per cent upon the sale of those assortments respectively in Europe, and as for the reasons already assigned it may be presumed that the impediments which the new mode of winding lies under is now at the worst. We are willing to hope that with perseverance they will be removed, and that we shall succeed in an object which you have so much at heart, and which seems so well adapted to give extent and improvement to this material branch of your commerce.

9. Mr. Robinson, the Superintendent at Bauleah, having proposed to us the procuring of silk worm eggs from China to introduce if possible in Bengal, as he supposed the silk produced from China worms to be of a stronger texture than that of this country, we requested of the supracargoes to take such opportunities as they might have of sending us some, which they have complied with, by a ship lately arrived from thence. They were immediately sent up to the silk *aurungs*, but we do not yet hear how far this experiment is likely to be attended with success.

10. It is with much pleasure we have succeeded in the provision of an investment for the dispatch of eight ships this season with full cargoes, of which we have already made mention in a former part of this letter. We hope it will be answerable to your expectations in the quality as well as in the quantity. At least we can venture to assure you that no pains have been



spared on our part to that end; and as the country recovers itself from the effects of the late dreadful calamity, we earnestly hope that every circumstance will concur with our endeavours to promote the success of your commercial affairs in this part of India to your entire satisfaction.

11. We have received an address from Lieutenant Colonel Wilding representing the disadvantage he sustains from drawing only the pay and allowances of a captain, copy of which for your information goes a number in the packet.

12. When you were pleased to restore this gentleman to his full rank in your service, we are inclined to believe you never intended he should be on a worse footing than those officers of an inferior rank apparently readmitted on the same conditions—we mean Majors Achmuty and Eyres, who have already become entitled to the full pay of major by the accidental reduction of that corps to the number you directed. And permit us to remark that this gentleman's case is more particularly distressing, as had his health permitted him to remain in the country with the reduced rank he then held, he must have ere now been a full major and received that pay, whereas under the restriction he now labours it is most improbable he may be obliged to support the rank you have been pleased to grant him with only the emoluments of captain for many years, as there appeared but a very distant prospect of the list of lieutenant colonels being reduced to the number you have fixed for the establishment. And here allow us to say that Lieutenant Colonel Wilding has ever demeaned himself to the satisfaction of his superiors except in the instance for which he suffered loss of rank.

13. Also goes enclosed a number in the packet copy of a representation from Captain John Nevill Parker. This gentleman, except in the instance for which he incurred your displeasure, having ever behaved himself like a good and gallant officer, and much to the satisfaction of his superiors, we beg leave to recommend his case to your consideration.

14. A complete set of the Moorshedabad Consultations to the end of last month, we have the pleasure to send you home, numbers in the book packet.

15. It being necessary that Mr. Jefferson, whom we have already mentioned, should have some person to take care of and attend on him during the passage, we have for that purpose sent home by this ship on the terms of charter party John Kirle, an invalid. His passage money as well as Mr. Jefferson's, we have informed the Captain will be accounted for with his owners in England.

16. We beg leave to inform you that Mrs. Mary Bawdwan, who was on the list of pensioners as the widow of the late Lieutenant Bawdwan, has been since re-married, and has in consequence been struck off the list.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Warren Hastings / W.  
Aldersey / John Reed / P. M. Dacres /  
Thomas Lane / Rich. Barwell / James  
Lawrell / H. Goodwin / Walter Wilkins.

Fort William,  
27th March 1772.

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 1772

*Marathas : Vazir-Rohilla negotiations for joint action against them prove ineffective ; defeat of the Rohillas and their evacuation of Shukartar ; Vazir saved from concluding a humiliating treaty by Barker's presence ; steps taken to protect Oudh—Chunargarh ceded to the Company and the garrison at Allahabad allowed to continue by the Vazir—troops retained at the Presidency against a possible French move.*

[ ] O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In our address per *Spike* we were able to give you little idea of the political situation of the country powers to the westward as we did not then possess sufficient materials to decide with any certainty what turn affairs would take upon the King's arrival at the capital.

2. The Vizier had expressed an inclination to meet General Barker at Benares to confer with him on his present critical situation with His Majesty and the Mhorattahs, and finally to adjust all matters relative to the cession of Chunar Gur so long in agitation ; but a severe indisposition attacking His Excellency prevented the proposed conference, and at his earnest entreaty the General proceeded to visit him at Fayzabad.

3. He found the Nabob determined at all events not to obey the King's mandate for his personal attendance, for he well knew that while the Mhorattahs retained their ascendancy at the capital the dignity of his station as Vizier could not be supported. Again to remain an idle spectator of the military enterprises projecting by the Mhorattahs would be a reflection on his spirit and pave the way for an attack on his own country. For, if the Rhohillahs, to avoid contending against the whole force of the Mhorattah arms, should be induced to assent to a compromise at the expence of a part of their possessions to secure the remainder, they would most probably revenge themselves of his inactivity by an alliance with his enemies.

4. It appeared to him then most prudent to concert measures conjunctively with the Rhohillahs and Patans for their mutual security ; and he flattered himself that his influence would have extended so far that on his appearance on the frontier of his dominions with a respectable army, he could likewise effect a general coalition of parties and induce the Mhorattahs to lay aside all hostile intentions against the Rhohillahs for a consideration of a part of their territory.

5. But as he was conscious that his neighbours were not unacquainted with his once avowed declaration of subjecting them to his authority, though political reasons for the present had obliged him to defer his intentions, they could not but doubt the sincerety of professions which the vicinity

of their country and the evident advantages accruing to the Nabob from an annexation of it to his own would always lead him when occasion offered to disregard.

6. For this reason, and to give confidence to those with whom he was to treat, as well as weight to the intended negotiations, he was desirous that General Barker should accompany him on this expedition ; and as it was certainly our interest that a general pacification should take place as far as it could be accomplished with consistency to the reputation of our ally, we considered the Nabob's requisition of the General's assistance as so very moderate that we scrupled not to give the General our permission to proceed upon this business with the Vizier to his own frontier.

7. His proposals as he had in some measure foreseen were not received by the Rhohillahs and Patans with that sanguine degree of approbation with which they had been dictated ; they thought his conditions unfair and could not well approve of a coalition in which though adopted for their mutual security they alone were to be the sufferers. They however were willing to cede such part of their country as might be judged necessary for the Royal support and testimony of their vassalage, and only requested the Vizier that in case it should be necessary he should march to the assistance of Zabita Cawn, who still remained at Succurtaul for the purpose of guarding the fords of the Ganges, at this time passable. But the Vizier declined taking part in any military operations so distant from home without the aid of the English troops, and proposed only to make a diversion across the river into the Patan territory, and of reconquering and dividing with them such districts as the Mhorattahs had possessed themselves of last year, and by this means draw their attention from Succurtaul.

8. While the time was thus wasted with unavailing negotiations, the Mhorattahs, who at the capital were the sole dispensers of the sovereign authority, exerted their influence with the King to prevail on him to attack Zabita Cawn in his present post ; and he accordingly had been induced to march some few coss from the city for that purpose, but as at first his adherents had refused to accompany him for want of pay, it is probable the Mhorattah chiefs fully removed that impediment by a loan to His Majesty.

9. The consequence of this resolution proved as propitious to the Mhorattahs as it had been fatal to the Rhohillahs ; a body of 30,000 of the former headed by Mahujy Sindeah, having advanced within sixteen coss of the fords and taken every precaution necessary to ensure their passage, crossed them under cover of their cannon, and gave an entire defeat to the Rhohillahs and Affghans<sup>1</sup> collected there to oppose them and, as it was apprehended, they were so much disheartened by this victory that upon the enemies advancing towards Succurtaul they found it abandoned by the Rhohillah chiefs, who separately provided for their safety by flight, while the invaders with their usual rapidity pursued their success into the very heart of their unhappy country.

10. Nor was this terror of the Mhorattah arms confined solely to the present sufferers. The Vizier was greatly discouraged and perplexed on the occasion ; so much so, we believe, as to have induced him, had he not been animated by the presence of General Barker, to have submitted to the most

humiliating terms for the purchase of his own security. This conduct in His Excellency was certainly not conformable to the great idea which the general opinion entertained of his military ardor, for his army was not only well appointed, but had attained to a degree of perfection comparable to that with which he had to cope. But without looking farther into the causes of despondency we may probably trace it in the universal disaffection which his troops of late years have repeatedly shown towards him, and as conciliating measures were never adopted to attach them to his person, he could not but now entertain doubts of their inclination to support his cause.

11. Things however are putting on a very respectable footing on the frontier by the General's disposition of the Nabob's forces supported by the Seventeenth Battalion doing duty with the Vizier ; and he seems to be extremely sensible that they are so, as he has not yet called upon us to fulfill that part of our treaty with him which stipulates the assistance of our troops in times of danger. And we are still in hopes that either this military appearance or the employment, the Mhorattahs will find in the absolute reduction of the Rhohillah country, will oblige them to defer their attempts against Sujah's dominions until the rising of the rivers, or the setting in of the rains shall render their further progress impracticable.

12. Should the Nabob however make a requisition of our assistance and we be engaged by this means in a Mhorattah war, every step shall be taken to bring it to a speedy but an effectual conclusion. In the intervening time we have recommended to the General to prevent as much as possible the Vizier's entertaining any thoughts of an improper compromise with his enemies, for the Mhorattahs of late years have taken such large strides towards the total sovereignty of Hindostan that it behoves us to be extremely jealous of their acquiring strength on our frontiers, and this likewise interests us in any success of their arms which may one day be directed against the Company's possessions.

13. General Sir Robert Barker, upon the first intelligence of the victory obtained over the Rhohillahs, upon a supposition that the motions of the conquerors towards Sujah Dowlah's country would be extremely rapid, had ordered the brigade stationed at Patna to march beyond the Caramnassah to be ready in case their assistance should be required. But the total silence of the Vizier upon a subject so interesting to him, and the General's letters not being sufficiently explicit, or the occasion in our opinion so pressing as to justify his taking so important a step from his own authority, the President has directed Colonel Champion to halt the brigade until he shall receive further orders from hence ; in the mean time it has been judged requisite to lay the General's correspondence before the Board at large for their final determination.

14. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah has at length given the necessary orders for his troops to evacuate the fort of Chunar Gur, which he has ceded to the Company for as long a term as they may be desirous of retaining it, and one of our battalions has been ordered to take possession of it accordingly. Nor is he desirous by any means that our troops should be drawn from Allahabad during the present commotions, requiring only that his flag may be exhibited on the walls as an acknowledgement of his authority.



15. We purpose keeping the Second and Third Brigades at or near the Presidency for the two succeeding months, for if the French should entertain hostile intentions against this quarter, their attempts must be made in the southerly monsoon, and it is incumbent on us to be as well prepared as possible.

16. Accompanying we have the honor to forward broken set of our proceedings from the dispatch of the *Spike*.

Fort William,  
the 26 March 1772.  
(Per *Rochford*  
Duplicate per *Clive*)

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,  
John Cartier / Warren Hastings /  
William Aldersey.

## 38

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1772

*Investment: remittances to Bombay—provision of carriage bullocks for sudden troop-movement—Court martial proceedings of Captain Mackenzie: protest against the Council's strictures from the President of the court martial—miscellaneous questions relating to personnel, accounts etc.—postscript: necessity of putting an end to the practice of the Company's servants proceeding to England to represent against the orders of the authorities in India.*

[.] O the Honorable [the] Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last address to you under the established heads and dated the 9th instant, we dispatched by the *Rochford*, Captain Hunt.

2. We have the pleasure to inform you that the *Lord Holland* left her pilot the 1st instant.

3. In our last letter we expressed our apprehensions of falling far short in our supplies to Bombay of the sum required by that Presidency. As there remained in your warehouses after the selection of cargoes for the *Clive* and *Colebrooke* a quantity of raw silk and silk piece goods, we determined on sending them to Bombay by the *Vansittart*, a country ship bound to that port, to supply as far as was in our power the great deficiency in the remittances. About the same time we received from Moorshedabad bills in favour of the Surat factory to the amount of 2,00,001 *sicca* rupees with a promise of 50,000 more, which Mahomet Reza Cawn had by dint of importunity prevailed upon the merchants to draw upon their correspondents.

4. By this unexpected supply of two lacs and the amount of the goods which were invoiced at 3,16,050-0-0 current rupees, the whole of our supplies

to Bombay for this season has been 12,53,536-2-3 ; and should we receive the other bills from the City, there will remain a balance of only 116,463-13-9 to complete the fourteen lacs they desired, which balance we hope they will be able to draw upon us either from Bombay or Surat, or that opportunities may offer here for receiving bills in their favor.

5. The expiration of the army contract being near, we published advertisements for receiving proposals on the 30th of next month, and the same notice was sent to all the subordinates.

6. The method hitherto practised on the sudden march of any part of the army, of sending sepoys, *hircarrahs* etc., over all the country to seize carriage bullocks for the removal of the stores and baggage, has been productive of the greatest inconveniencies. For those people when out of the sight of their officers and masters have under this pretence plundered the inhabitants, and the latter through fear of this treatment have on the first appearance of a movement of the troops forsaken their houses and occupations, and have driven their cattle into the most distant and uncultivated parts of the country to prevent their being seized.

7. Your Honors will find this subject very largely treated in a sensible letter which we lately received from the Chief and Council at Patna dated 19th March which led us to take this matter under our consideration ; and to remedy an evil of so pernicious a nature, we have adopted the following plan which we hope will answer the desired end.

8. We have ordered the Patna Council to make an estimate of all the farmers in the Bahar province, who are to be directed to keep at their own charge one thousand effective bullocks, each farmer to provide a number proportionable to the value of his farm. These bullocks they may employ either on their own account or on that of others while the troops remain in cantonments ; but on their being ordered to move they are to send their cattle in good condition on the first notice to the several *cutcherries* of the province, and for which they are to be allowed such hire as shall be deemed reasonable. These *cutcherries* are immediately to forward all the bullocks sent to them to the place appointed for receiving them.

9. By this method a sufficient number of bullocks, we hope, may be provided at the shortest warning. The country will be freed from some heavy grievances, the inhabitants will be delivered from their fears, and the loss sustained by the former method will be saved to the Company, for on them it fell in the end as the farmers were allowed deductions in their rents on this account.

10. It is certain that the farmers will be at some additional expense by this scheme. But it is far better this expense should be divided among many than fall upon a few individuals nearest to the cantonments, which we apprehend must have been the case before.

11. And that the brigade may not be distressed or retarded by our prohibition of sepoys etc., entering the districts and providing the necessary supplies, we have directed orders to be issued to the *Aumils* and farmers of every district through the means of the Supervisors to provide the brigades with such necessaries as shall be wanted on a formal requisition in writing from

the officer commanding it and by providing against such wants as much as possible.

12. In the postscript of our letter by the *Asia* we related the circumstances of a court martial held at Burrampore from 23rd November 1771 to 13th January upon Captain David Mackenzie, who had been stationed with a detachment of *purgunnah* sepoy in the district of Rungpore, and at the same time acquainted you with our sentiments and resolutions on the proceedings of that court which to us appeared so very unprecedented. These were proclaimed in the general orders of the 21st of January, and we were in hopes that a topic so unpleasing instead of being revived would have concluded with the manner in which we had expressed our entire disapprobation and led to the sole and salutary purpose intended of putting a stop to all future attempts to controvert the authority of Government. But we have lately received a letter from Major Charles Morgan who sat as President of that court martial of so extraordinary a nature that we find ourselves under the necessity of resuming the subject.

13. In this letter with much diffuse and ambiguous language Major Morgan expresses his surprise at the censure passed on the court, complains of it as a personal injury affecting his character, assumes to himself the credit of all their proceedings, arraigns the justice of the Board, recommends a retrospection of the conduct of the court not doubting that on mature deliberation we should be induced to revoke the censure and applaud their justice, however we might disapprove their judgement, which is equivalent to a demand for our eulogium on that behaviour which had already drawn from us the severest reproach.

14. Before we proceed any further in our comments upon Major Morgan's letter, we shall beg leave for a clear and comprehensive view of the whole subject to refer to the proceedings of the court martial at large and to the resolutions passed thereon in Consultation of the 17th January last.

15. In order however to elucidate the matter yet further it may not be improper here to observe that before the appointment of the court martial on Captain Mackenzie he was removed from the command at Rungpore and summoned to the City by the Chief of Durbar in consequence of complaints preferred by the inhabitants of that district of exactions made by him during the time of his command there. Instead of obeying that summons he passed Moorshedabad and proceeded on to Calcutta under the plea of sickness and the necessity of his taking the benefit of the sea air. If this was meant to elude his being brought to account at the City for his misconduct it did not avail, for on the surgeon's pronouncing him sufficiently recovered to proceed thither, a court martial was ordered upon him for disobedience of orders, and disrespect towards the chief under whose authority he acted, and other charges of the like nature, independently of those to which he was liable from the complaints of the inhabitants of Rungpore.

16. The first object of the court martial's attention to the surprise of every one was a formal discussion of the powers by which Mr. Alexander acted as Chief of the Durbar, and the authority by which it could be made to appear that Captain Mackenzie was subject to his command. The first may surely be deemed presumptuous and quite foreign to the matter before them ; and

as to the other it does not appear that Captain Mackenzie himself doubted the powers or authority of the chief. Indeed, we do not see how he should, since it was by the order of the Chief of the Durbar that he was appointed to his station at Rungpore, that he remained in that station, and that he afterwards quitted it in consequence of his own application to the chief acknowledged by these instances to be his superior. But if that point could possibly admit of any dispute which for the reasons already mentioned we do not think it could, the matter might have been easily cleared up from the records of the Chief and Council of Revenue and their officers without the necessity of the chief's personal attendance to prove it. But this was positively objected to, though had it appeared at all essential to the purpose of their enquiry, Mr. Alexander's attendance would have been considered a matter of course; but as there was no reason to suppose that could be the case and Mr. Alexander had a surmise that the intention of the court was to subject him to a personal discussion of his own powers, he excused himself from attending until it was insisted upon by the court as a matter that could not be dispensed with.

17. Although it is a circumstance that we should not lay any stress upon as having in the least influenced our opinion upon the conduct of the court martial, yet as it may serve as a collateral testimony of the spirit that seems to have been excited by this extraordinary mode and course of proceeding, we may here remark that as soon as the court was appointed it was the common topic of discourse that it would shortly appear whether the Chief of the Durbar or any other member of the civil community whatever was not under the obligation of paying obedience to the summons or power of a military court. From hence it may be easily inferred whether such a spirit did or did not prevail, and if so, whether it was intentional or only the casual effect of the warmth and ill-placed zeal of the court.

18. Mr. Alexander, as we have already said, did obey the summons of the court martial, when, instead of applying to him in moderate and direct terms to solve the point they required first of all to be satisfied in, he was detained and interrogated unnecessarily, or we may say wantonly, both respecting the powers and the nature of the station he at that time occupied as Chief of the Durbar, by which means the proceedings were spun out to a very tedious and unnecessary length, whilst that gentleman on the other hand perfectly maintained that temper and discretion which, although propriety required it of him, were at the same time put to so severe a trial.

19. Although every passage almost without exception of Major Morgan's letter is dictated in terms so very unusual and unbecoming as to afford ample occasion of being remarked upon, yet we shall leave it in general to speak for itself, and to be compared both as to matter and style with the tenor of the court martial, quoting here only the following paragraph, which is uncommonly striking—"Ought the honor and reputation of an officer's sixteen years' irreproachable service to the Company to be impeached through false delicacy or the dread of offending power? Shall the practices which appear to the members of a court martial equally irregular and illegal be left unenquired into? Shall they regulate the proceedings of men who are appointed by the highest acknowledged power to judge impartially of every matter brought before them? Our oaths, our honor and professions, all forbid it, and I hope



you may be induced to believe that the members of the late general court martial were neither to be biassed by the false opinions of others, the fear of power, or the hope of reward (these were in their view), but they were gentlemen sworn to administer justice to the best of their understanding etc."

20. We shall readily admit that the members of a court martial are the men appointed by the highest acknowledged power and the authority by which such appointment is made to be sacred. Yet although Major Morgan (particularly in his letter of censure to Mr. Alexander which is recorded in their proceedings) holds out the sacred name of His Majesty with so much pomp and parade, it was however far from His Majesty's intentions by the institution of such a court that the members should arrogate themselves a demeanour that sets the civil authority at defiance, and has a direct tendency to weaken and overthrow the very principles on which the constitution of the Government is founded, much less can the court be justified in descending to cast invidious reflections on the powers and officers of the Government on which it depended.

21. As to the other part of the passage just quoted we are utterly at a loss to comprehend what it can be. Major Morgan alludes to by saying that the members of the court martial were neither to be biassed by the false opinions of others, the fear of power, or the hope of reward, and that these were in their view.

22. Upon the whole we can only declare our sentiments that desirous as we are to do the strictest justice to the merits and past services of Major Morgan, the insinuations interspersed in his letter throughout and the style of it on the most impartial view can with every allowance be deemed so little short of absolute insult that we could do no less than acquaint him that we had no further occasion for his services.

23. With reluctance have we intruded so much on your time upon so very irksome an occasion, but we thought it more particularly necessary for this reason, that on the reception the judgement we have passed on this matter shall meet with from our superiors, will entirely depend the permanent and good effects, we are to hope will be the final result of it. We shall conclude with remarking that the opinions of the Board upon the conduct of the court martial were unanimous, and that we are convinced that unless such a spirit of contention against the civil power, for in such light we must still view it, receives a timely check, it is liable to be attended with the greatest inconveniences and the most dangerous consequences to your service.

24. We have granted Major Sears permission to return upon this ship to England on account of his ill health. As his behaviour has been irreproachable we have granted him a certificate of his services, and beg leave to recommend him to your favorable notice, should his health allow of an application to you for a return to his duty.

25. Major Watson having petitioned us for leave to proceed to England on leave of absence that he might make a personal application to you on the subject of the docks he is constructing. But as we could not grant his request on any terms except of those of resigning the service, he has made a formal resignation and takes his passage on board this ship.

26. We have sent home on the terms of charter party Robert Gordan, an invalid. As the Captain of the ship was gone down the river before this man applied, we have left his passage money to be paid in England.

27. The Grand Lodge of Free Masons addressed us on a claim they made to a sum of money which they represent they had placed in the Company's cash before the capture of Calcutta, and which they believed Consn. [...] Feby, appeared on the books in the name of Brown and Mapletoft 31st March. who were treasurers of their society. On searching the books we found that the Company stood indebted to the estate of Brown and Mapletoft in the sum of C.Rs. 2,475-6-0 from the year 1753. But as no proof appeared of this money having been paid in on account of the Society of Free Masons we did not deem ourselves entitled to comply with their demand, but referred them to you for a final answer.

28. In conformity to your orders of the 10th of April last we called on the Committee of Trade for an explanation of the Consn. 9th Dec. 1771. supposed omission of the entry of 2,20,000 CRs. and of the apparent mistake in the balance which we informed you was due from that Society.

29. By their letter on this subject it appears that the whole of the balance due from the Society 'A' was paid off in September 1769 Consn. 31st March. and March 1770, and that the sum of current rupees 2,20,000 was paid on account of the Society 'B' but had not been so distinguished in the treasury books which occasioned the mistake.

30. The entry of 31,000 rupees which you suppose to have been on a new account was part of the above mentioned balance from the Society 'A' and was the first payment made as before mentioned in September 1769.

31. The sum of 2,95,000 rupees has been received from the Society 'B'. Second year from 1766 to 1767 rupees 5,15,000 or nearly £ Sterling 62,000 [have been received] on account of the duties of salt and beetlenut exclusive of the above sum of 2,20,000 as appears by their letter entered on our Consultations.

32. We transmit by this ship a long roll of the army for the year 1771, which could not be made ready in time for the last dispatches.

33. Duplicate copies of the Restitution accounts having been prepared since the advice received of the loss of the *Verelst*, we now forward them to you numbers in the packet.

34. We have registered on this ship one bulse of diamonds valued at V.Rs. 1556-1-2<sup>1</sup> consigned by Mr. Thomas Motte to Mr. Charles Bathurst in London.

35. We beg leave to refer you to our proceedings for an account of some exceptions which Captain Nairne of the *Lord Holland* made to his account deficiencies and for the Naval Storekeeper's remarks thereon that you may be enabled to judge whether the Captain's exceptions are well grounded or the Naval Storekeeper's confutation is sufficient to overthrow them.

36. We beg leave to transmit you a number in the packet a letter and

certificates addressed to us by Mr. Francis Robertson, formerly an officer in your service.

37. As the pressure of this gentleman's private debts (a circumstance probably unknown to you) was the occasion of his quitting England with precipitation and proceeding hither on a French ship though at a time when his friends were soliciting his restoration, and as he has since his arrival conducted himself to the satisfaction of administration as a peaceable member of the community, we have ventured to allow of his residing in India till such time as your further pleasure be known ; and induced by his free acknowledgement and repentance of his error, the general good character he has ever borne, joined with the remembrance of his former services so amply testified by his commanding officers, Colonels Chapman and Champion, together with the extreme indigence and hardships he has suffered since losing the service, we take the liberty of recommending him to you as a person not more culpable than those who have already experienced your forgiveness and an object worthy your clemency.

38. The balance in our treasury this day is CRs. 26,72,071-9-0, and the balance of cash C.Rs. 13,968-5-8.

39. The amount of this ship's invoice is CRs. 10,50,000-0-0.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Warren Hastings / Wm.  
Aldersey / P. M. Dacres / Thos. Lane /  
Richd. Barwell / James Lawrell / H.  
Goodwin.

Fort William,  
the 31st March 1772.

#### *Postscript*

1. Major Eyres, having thought a further explanation of the right by which he holds his present rank necessary, has addressed to us another letter, copy of which you will receive a number in the packet. It alludes to an intention attributed to the officers going in the *Clive* to solicit a higher rank in the service than they have hitherto held by claiming it from the date of their captain's commissions in 1763.

2. We do not know what cause Major Eyres may have for his suspicion, but we are inclined to believe, that it is groundless as no intention of such a pretension has ever been made to this Board either by Major Watson or Major Morgan, and therefore it would be superfluous in us to give our sentiments upon the propriety of it. But we crave leave on this occasion to represent the inconveniences which arise to the service from the practise of officers going to England for the sake of making their applications to Your Honors.

3. Appeals to your justice from the acts of this Government and petitions for indulgences which are beyond our power to grant ought undoubtedly to

receive every kind of encouragement and we hope ever will. But we are humbly of opinion that such remonstrances should always be made in writing and transmitted through the regular channel of our public advices, because it will afford us an opportunity of offering at the same time our opinions supported by the proofs of our records upon them, it will put it in the powers of others whose interests may be affected by the event of such solicitations to state their pretensions in return, and it will prevent the fear as well as the effects of misrepresentations.

4. It is an opinion commonly received and justified by frequent experience that men in general are more easily swayed by personal solicitation than persuaded by mere written argument; and we fear this belief may sometimes have operated so much to the prejudice of the persons adopting it as of the service which may lose the aid of its most useful members by inducing them to sacrifice their time in a voyage to England in the hopes of attaining that favor from you, which we are persuaded they might solicit with better effect, and we are sure with a much better title to it, in the usual and prescribed forms than by flying the country, abandoning their stations, and leaving the duties and fatigues of the service to others whom they perhaps are endeavouring to supercede. Though these reflexions arise from the occasion before us, yet we do not mean to apply them to the gentlemen alluded to in Major Eyre's petition to whom they are in no shape applicable as their return to England is in both the effect of allowed necessity and in one unavoidable. It is to the practise only and its general effects that we allude, and we trust Your Honors will think the subject of sufficient importance to merit so large a digression upon it.

5. We send to Your Honors, a number in this packet, copy of a receipt we have given to Major Watson for the sum of CRs. 1,33,333-5-4. The nature of this deposit and the reasons which have induced the Major to make it will be fully explained by his letter to us dated the 31st March and the copy of the receipt.

6. In the commission accounts sent home by the *Rochford* there was an omission of Mr. Jekyll's name. We therefore beg leave to send home another properly corrected.

7. We have the pleasure of sending home the Military Paymaster General's books balanced to the 30th April 1770, and we beg leave to enclose a number in the packet extract of a letter from the Military Paymaster General which accompanied them, as it contains some particulars relative thereto which it is necessary you should be informed of at the receipt of the books.

8. Mr. Wilkins, a member of our Board, having informed us that his private affairs required his presence in Europe and desired our permission to resign the service, it was accordingly granted, and he now takes his passage on board the *Clive*.

9. Major Charles Morgan having made application to us, a passage is granted him in this ship.

10. We have likewise permitted Mr. Thomas Plastow<sup>2</sup> to return to Europe by this conveyance.



11. We have granted by this ship two sets of certificates according to the following list:—

*To whom granted*

*To whom payable* CRs.

1 set dated the 25th March 1772 (the amount paid the 16th instant into the Honorable Company's treasury) to John Whiteway, Third Officer of the ship <i>Clive</i> , Captain John Allen, Commander.	Himself 1,731-0-0
1 set dated 1st April 1772 to Thomas Nelson, Surgeon of the ship <i>Clive</i> , John Allen, Commander.	Himself 1,231-0-0

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Current rupees	2,962-0-0
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Fort William,  
the 9th April 1772.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Warren Hastings / Wm.  
Aldersey / P. M. Dacres / Thomas  
Lane / Rich. Barwell / James Lawrell /  
H. Goodwin.

*Additional postscript*

A representation having been made to us by the administrator of the estate of William Brown that amongst the papers of the deceased he found an obligation or receipt from the Sub-Treasurer dated 26th December 1770 for C.Rs. 20,244-3-0 being money paid by Mr. John Walker for bills of exchange to be granted the January following, and it appearing on examination of the books that such a sum of money had been received on that account and that no bills had been granted for the same, we have granted by this ship bills of exchange on you for the amount with the interest due thereon on the same terms and conditions as those drawn on you in January 1770, a register whereof we enclose a number in the packet.

Fort William,  
the 10th April 1772.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / Warren Hastings / Wm.  
Aldersey / P. M. Dacres / Thomas  
Lane / Rich. Barwell / James Lawrell /  
H. Goodwin.

## SECRET LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1772

*Barker's order to the First Brigade to march into Oudh as a precautionary measure against a possible Maratha invasion disapproved and countermanded.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Our last address to you from this Department was dated the 9th instant by the *Rochford*; a duplicate thereof we transmit a number in the packet.

2. The Select Committee having judged it necessary to lay their proceedings before us and to desire our advice and opinion upon a measure taken by General Sir Robert Barker, we could not avoid disapproving of his conduct. It appeared that the General, alarmed at the rapid success and near approach of the Marattas, had ordered the First Brigade which was stationed at Patna to march immediately into the Vizier's dominions to be in readiness to join and assist him in case the Marattas should invade his country.

3. We are well convinced that the General's motive for this act was laudable, and proceeded solely from an eager inclination to serve his employers by assisting an ally who he thought stood in need of it. Yet it was stepping beyond the limits of his authority to direct a movement of such consequence without our previous sanction and concurrence, unless the last necessity had required it.

4. We see no necessity for it. No formal requisition had been made to this Government by the Vizier, nor is it even intimated by the General that any verbal application of the kind had ever been made to him. Neither of course had any mode been settled with the Vizier for payment of the extra expences of the brigade, which undoubtedly should have been done before orders were sent for its marching; and as no requisition on his part was made to us, it certainly was impolitic to offer, nay, to give it unasked. It puts it out of our power to demand the reimbursement of the extra expence to which we are subjected by such a motion of our troops, or at least it would be at his option to pay it as a matter of favor or to refuse it to our solicitation and request.

5. Although we believe that the Vizier's good sense, his confidence in the General, and perhaps his opinion of our faith would exempt him from the suspicions which might very obviously arise from such a readiness shewn on our part to enter his country unsolicited with a third part of our forces, yet with the most favorable construction that could be put on such a proceeding, it must appear strange to him that we should pretend to be better judges of his necessities than himself, and such acts of superarrogation will seldom be construed by the princes of this country as the effect of generosity alone.

6. For these reasons we judged it proper to countermand the march of

the brigade until we received futher advices of the motions of the Marattas or a formal requisition from Suja Dowlah for assistance.

7. As it appeared that Nudjuff Cawn had joined the Morattas we directed the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad to stop all further payment of his stipend until they received particular directions from us.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,  
John Cartier / / Warren Hastings / W.  
Aldersey / P. M. Dacres / Thomas  
Lane / Richard Barwell / James  
Lawrell / H. Goodwin.

Fort William,  
31st March 1772.

40

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 1 APRIL 1772

*The Marathas: further progress in the reduction of Rohilkhand and uncertainty as regards their future designs.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since our last address by the *Rochford*, a duplicate of which we have now the honor to forward, our intelligence of the Mhorattahs contains little else but a detail of their further progress in the reduction of the Rhohillah country. Hafez Rhamet and Zabta Cawn have retired precipitately towards the northern hills, while other of the chiefs have surrendered themselves to Mahujy Sindeah.

Consn. March  
26th.

2. A few days, we hope, will enable us to determine whether the attainment of the Rhohillahs' possessions is at this time the boundary of the Mhorattahs' views to the westward.

We are with the greatest respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,  
John Cartier / Warren Hastings /  
William Aldersey.

Fort William,  
the 1st April 1772.  
(Per *Clive*  
Duplicate per *Colebrooke*)



Mahadji Sindia





## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 13 APRIL 1772

*Shipping news—service matters: representation from lieutenant colonels relative to their share in the commission money; Captain Mackenzie not permitted to proceed to England; Cartier succeeded by Hastings as Governor—miscellaneous questions relating to charter party, etc.—postscript: account relating to deficiencies of goods by the Colebrooke.*

[ ] O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. The *Colebrooke* being fully laden we now dispatch her to you, and although the season is far advanced we yet entertain hopes of her being fortunate enough to effect her passage out of the river.

2. A duplicate of our letter by the *Clive* under date the 31st of March, postscripts 9th and 10th instant we send home in this packet.

3. We have advanced to Captain Morris of the *Colebrooke*, on his application to us, the sum of six thousand current rupees for the use of the ship, for which he has given a receipt in triplicate; one of them we now have the honor to transmit to you, the others shall be forwarded in our next dispatch.

4. We have laden on the *Colebrooke* as ballast 24 old iron guns weighing  $24\frac{1}{4}$  tons and invoiced at current rupees 5,547-3-0. The invoice and bill of lading make numbers in the packet.

5. We have received a second application from Lieutenant Colonels Ironside and Campbell on the same subject as the former one which we mentioned to you in our letter by the *Rochford*<sup>1</sup> viz., the hardship sustained by the eight eldest lieutenant colonels in being obliged to admit the supernumeraries of that corps to an equal division with them in the share of the commission money allotted to the lieutenant colonels.

6. We beg leave to remark on this address that it appears to have a foundation in justice; for, contrary, we believe, to all precedent or practice, the supernumeraries are upon a footing preferable to those who are upon the establishment, they receiving at this time an equal share with the others who on this account have just one-third of the division deducted, and yet when they shall rank on the establishment, they will receive their whole shares without any deduction, as no supernumerary field officers are in future to be allowed.

7. As however you are pleased to mention in your letter by the *Lord Mansfield* the 23rd March 1770 that the share you have allotted for the corps of lieutenant colonels is to be equally divided amongst them, it is not in our power to proceed further in this matter than to recommend it to your consideration.

8. We have, since our last advice, received repeated applications from Captain MacKenzie for leave to take his passage on the *Colebrooke* for the benefit of the sea air and the recovery of his health, which we have refused. Our reasons for this refusal and reflections on his conduct are entered at large on our proceedings to which we beg leave to refer, unwilling to swell our public advices with matters so very uninteresting to Your Honors, although of too much importance to us by the great portion of our time and attention bestowed on it when we have very little to spare of either from the various and weighty objects of your Government.\* A continuation of the enquiry into his conduct is transmitted a number in this packet.

9. In conformity to your orders our late President Mr. Cartier this day resigned the charge of this Government to Mr. Hastings, and has availed himself of your permission to remain in the country until the next season. We shall be careful that during his stay every respect and attention be paid to him according to your orders.

10. In our last address we advised you of the departure of Mr. Wilkins; the vacancy which thereby happened in our Council was filled up by the nomination of Mr. John Graham; and we have appointed Mr. William Lambert to succeed to the further vacancy occasioned by the resignation of President Cartier, both these gentlemen being the next in succession on your list of covenanted servants.

11. We again beg leave to make favourable mention to you of Mr. John Murray who acted as Judge Advocate at the late trials in Burhampore. The steady and active conduct which he observed, and the pertinent remarks which he made, all tending to support the regular authority of the Government, and on an occasion both new and intricate, entitle him to the greatest approbation, nor need we say anything to enhance your idea of his abilities beyond what will necessarily strike Your Honors on a perusal of the courts martial proceedings. To you we recommend him for such reward or testimony of approbation as you may esteem him deserving of or be pleased to bestow, only remarking, if you should judge it proper to command his services in the line of your civil establishment with a fixed rank, that he is amply qualified to answer any expectations you may entertain from him, and has in particular obtained a very competent knowledge of the Persian language.

12. We have granted Captain William Cooke leave to resign and proceed to England on this ship on account of his health; and as he has ever demeaned himself to our satisfaction, we hope that he will be allowed to return with his rank should his health be re-established. We have the same application to make on behalf of Lieutenant Charles Fitzgerald of the artillery, who is obliged to return to Europe on the same account and stands strongly recommended to us by the commanding officer of that corps.

13. We have also granted permission to Messrs Foster and Serle, cadets, to resign and take their passage on this ship, and have allowed Mr. Humphrey Davies, whom you permitted to come out to India to assist Major Watson in the construction of his docks, to return home on account of his health. We have also given permission to Captain Hooke to take his passage on the *Colebrooke*.

14. William Hausting, a matross whose time of service is expired, embarks

on the *Colebrooke* on the terms of charter party. His passage money has not been paid here.

15. The season being already so far advanced we were unwilling to detain this ship any longer for the purpose of carrying back the new covenants as a considerable time must be expired before they can be returned from the army and from the several factories and places up the country. We shall however be particularly attentive to the immediate execution of them by all the persons under our jurisdiction who are specified in your orders on this head and shall transmit them to you by the very first ship of the next season.

16. We have registered on this ship a box of pearls and diamonds belonging to Captain William Cooke and taken home by him on his own account and risk valued at current rupees 5,000, as also 3 bulses of diamond consigned by General Barker to Mr. Scott in Leicester Fields and Mr. Devaynes in Spring Gardens and valued at current rupees 7,000.

17. The balance in your treasury at Moorshedabad on the 31st ultimo was *sicca* rupees 28,34,523-1-15-1. The balance in your treasury at the Presidency this day is current rupees 18,13,699-10-3, and the balance of cash on this day is current rupees 2,838-13-8.

18. The amount of this ship's invoice is current rupees 10,95,5000.

We are with respects,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,  
Warren Hastings / Wm. Aldersey / P.  
M. Dacres / Thomas Lane / Rich.  
Barwell / James Lawrell / H. Goodwin /  
J. Graham.

Fort William,  
the 13th April 1772.

#### *Postscript*

We beg leave to send, a number in the packet, copy of an address from the Import Warehouse Keeper to the Committee of Commerce which we have just received on the subject of the account deficiencies of goods by the *Colebrooke*, as also copies of the several notes which passed between him and the Captain and Purser of that ship, on which it is necessary to remark that it should seem by Mr. Leigh's letter that the Import Warehouse Keeper is accountable only for the quantity he receives into the warehouse after the copper is weighed off in the presence of the Purser until then he does not deem the copper to be in his charge, to support which he alledges that it is always customary for the captains to keep peons to watch the copper until it is weighed. This is corroborated by Captain Morris's acknowledging that he had a peon, though he says this was only to please Mr. Leigh. However, if the Purser had waited on Mr. Leigh (as it was his duty to have done and whose behaviour on the occasion we think both disrespectful and unreasonable), the matter in all probability might have been cleared up. At present, the Captain being gone down, nothing more can be done than to send the account deficiency a number in the packet, and to refer the affair to your consideration. We shall however enquire what is the custom in these cases; no other enquiry



indeed can be made as neither the Captain nor the Purser will be on the spot. As to the piece of copper said to be found at the water side, it is a mere assertion which the Purser ought to have proved, as also that he informed Mr. Leigh of it at the time, and we must observe that his not having done so amounts to a negative refutation of the fact.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,  
Warren Hastings / Wm. Aldersey / P.  
M. Dacres / Thomas Lane / Rich.  
Barwell / James Lawrell / H. Goodwin /  
J. Graham.

Fort William,  
the 20th April 1772.

42

## SECRET LETTER DATED 13 APRIL 1772

*Revenue matter: enquiry into charges against Muhammad Riza Khan; reasons for delay in effecting new settlements: decision to farm out lands on long-term leases.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In our address from this Department by the ship *Asia*<sup>1</sup> paragraph 15th, we rectified a mistake that had been committed in reporting to you the balances of last year's revenue under the department at Moorshedabad. It is necessary we should apprise you further on this subject that collections of those balances have in the course of this year been made and carried to credit in the Moorshedabad treasury accounts to the sum of *sicca* rupees 2,28,814-15-17, whereby the amount of them is now diminished to *sicca* rupees 16,09,846-4-5-3, of which we hope that further recoveries will still be effected.

2. We have already remarked that the collections of the present year's revenue have been every where made with favorable success under the department mentioned in the preceeding paragraph. The Chief advises the President that the sum of *sicca* rupees 1,35,00,000, has been to this time received, and that he entertains expectations of realizing a considerable part of the residue of the settlement before the accounts of the year are adjusted and closed.

3. We have received from the Revenue Council at Moorshedabad a letter containing the result of their enquiry on the subject of the balances unaccounted for by Mahomed Reza Cawn whilst he rented the province of Dacca. From their explanation it would appear some mistake must have arisen both with respect to the period of Mahomed Reza Cawn's being the renter and the engagements said to have been entered into. In the year 1762 it is certain

Comm. Revenue  
Proceedings 10th  
April.

13 APRIL 1772

405

he could have no kind of concern in, or management of, the Dacca revenues as Cossim Ally Cawn's *subaship* did not expire until July 1763, and we do not find that so large a settlement was ever effected as *sicca* rupees 38,86,242, or so great a collection realized as *sicca* rupees 29,63,281. As this transaction, however, doubtless alludes to the period of Jaffier Aly Cawn's second Government, which intervened between the overthrow of Meer Cossim and the cession of the *Duannee*, we have ordered the Council of Revenue to furnish us with an account of Mahomed Reza Cawn's engagements to Government during that time and how far he acquitted himself in the performance of them. From these materials we flatter ourselves with being able to form an accurate judgement on the point in question, the result of which shall be advised you by the first ship of next season. Since the cession of the *Duannee* the revenues of Dacca seem in general to have been paid up very regular according to the annual settlements, and since the year 1767 Mahomed Reza Cawn does not appear to have had any concern therein further than the general superintendence virtually invested in him by his office of *Naib Duan*.

4. We have not yet been able to enter on the business of the new settlement of the revenues. It is a subject of too great importance to admit of our coming to a partial resolution upon it, or to adopt any general arrangements without the most mature deliberation. We consider this as the first object of your Government. We mean, therefore, to take up the investigation of it at large, and to make such improvements in the settlement and management of the collections as shall appear to us most conducive to the increase of your revenue and most consonant to that spirit of equity and tenderness for the ease and welfare of the people virtually subjected to your authority which manifestly appear in all your commands to us on this great and interesting branch of your administration.

5. The only points on which we have yet formed any resolution, and which must serve as the groundwork of all our further arrangements, are to lett as much of the lands as we can to farm and for long leases. This is so conformable to your orders that we need not take up your time in this place by assigning the very obvious reasons for so useful a plan.

6. Although no other official notice has yet been taken of this extensive business, we think we may venture to assure you that the delay will not occasion much detriment to your affairs. We hope none, as we have sent early injunctions through the channel of the Council of Revenue to the Supervisors of the several districts to give a particular attention to securing the collections of the rents of the new year and to encourage by every possible means the cultivation of the lands.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,  
Warren Hastings / Wm. Aldersey / P.  
M. Dacres / Thomas Lane / Rich.  
Barwell / James Lawrell / H. Goodwin /  
J. Graham.

Fort Wiliam,  
13th April 1772.  
(Per *Colebrooke*)

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 14 APRIL 1772

*Copies of certain letters and proceedings forwarded.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. A few days ago, we had the honor to address you by the *Clive*, a duplicate of which goes enclosed.

2. As nothing of consequence has occurred in your political affairs, we have only to forward to you broken set of country correspondence up to this date and a duplicate of our proceedings for the year 1770 which were lost in the *Verelst*.

Fort William,  
the 14th April 1772.  
(Per *Colebroke*  
Duplicate per *Lapwing*)

We are with the greatest respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,  
Warren Hastings / William Aldersey.

## SECRET LETTER DATED 24 APRIL 1772

(FROM WARREN HASTINGS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL)

*Steps taken for the arrest of Muhammad Raza Khan and of his Dewan Raja Amrit Singh.*

TO the Secret Committee of the Honorable Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honorable United East India Company.

Gentlemen,

1. In obedience to your commands received last night by the *Lapwing* I this morning dispatched a letter by express *cossids* to Samuel Middleton Esqre., the Chief at the Durbar and have sent a duplicate of the same by the usual dispatches this night, strictly enjoining him on receipt thereof to arrest the person of Mahomet Rezza Cawn and his *Dewan* Rajah Aument [Amrit] Sing and sent them down under a guard to the Presidency. As soon as they

arrive I shall proceed with the assistance of the Select Committee or of the Board to pursue such further measures as shall appear most expedient for effecting the enquiry which you have directed to be made into the conduct of Mahomet Rezza Cawn. I have thought it unnecessary to cause any other persons to be seized, though there are many from whom much information may be obtained, as it might occasion too great alarm, and I apprehend there will be little need of violence to obtain such intelligence as they can give against their former master when his authority is taken from him.

2. I beg leave to assure you of my readiness and desire to execute the other trusts reposed in me with diligence, obedience and fidelity to the utmost of my abilities.

I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient and faithful  
servant,  
Warren Hastings.

Fort William,  
24th April 1772.

## 45

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 24 APRIL 1772

*Acknowledgment of the receipt of Court's despatch dated 28 August 1771.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since the closing and final dispatch of the *Colebrooke's* packet, we have been honored by the receipt of your commands dated the 28th August 1771 by the *Lapwing* packet which arrived at Calcutta on the 23rd instant.

2. We dispatch this by an express boat in hopes of its reaching the *Colebrooke* before she leaves her pilot.

We remain,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful humble servants,  
Warren Hastings / Wm. Aldersey / P.  
M. Dacres / Rich. Barwell / James  
Lawrell / James Harris / H. Goodwin /  
J. Graham.

Fort William,  
the 24th April 1772.



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1772

(FROM WARREN HASTINGS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL)

*Promise to institute enquiries ordered by Court.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. I have been honored with the receipt of your letter of the 18th December 1771 together with duplicate and triplicate of the same.

2. As these have all arrived since my departure from Calcutta, and the matters contained therein chiefly regard that place, it has not been in my power yet to enter upon the enquiries which you have been pleased to enjoin. These I shall make a principal object of my attention as soon as I return to the Presidency.

I am with great respect,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servant,  
Warren Hastings.

Cossimbuzar,  
1st September 1772.  
(Per Nottingham)

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 5 SEPTEMBER 1772

*Arrest of Muhammad Riza Khan and Raja Shitab Rai—work of the committee appointed to reform the affairs of the Nawab and effect revenue settlements—appointment of a guardian to the Nawab and of certain other officers consequent upon the abolition of the post of Naib Subah—khalsa shifted from Murshidabad to Calcutta—revenue settlement in districts not referred to the Committee set up for the purpose—measures to improve collection of salt duty—further information relative to Captain Mackenzie's case—loss of the Duke of Albany—sundry matters relating to personnel, charter party etc.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since our last address by the *Colebrooke* date the 13th April we have received your several commands [by the] *Nottingham*, *Duke of Albany*, *Triton* and *Greenwich* [...] 18th December and 15th January last.

2. As the early dispatch of the *Nottingham* from the Coast to Europe may possibly occasion her arrival with you before the *Lapwing* packet on which we purpose forwarding a minute detail of our proceedings, we shall in this letter confine ourselves to a summary relation of the measures that have been pursued in compliance with your orders, and it will suffice, we flatter ourselves, until a further explanation can reach you, accompanied by the several records to which we must refer.

3. The President upon receipt of your commands<sup>1</sup> executed the commission you entrusted to him by the seizure of the *Naib Soubah*, Mahomed Reza Cawn; he was accordingly brought down under a guard to Calcutta where he has since that time continued under restraint at his own house.

4. At the same time we deemed it necessary in pursuance of the 20 paragraph of your above noted commands to order to the Presidency Raja Sitabroy, the *Naib Dewan* of the province of Bahar, that the great deficiency in the Bahar revenue which you charge to the misconduct of the officers of the Government might be explained and adjusted.

5. These previous measures taken, we thought it necessary, in further prosecution of your commands, to issue a proclamation at the City and at Patna advertising the removal of the Nabob Mahomed Reza Cawn and of Raja Sitabroy, and of the abolition of the office of *Naib Dewan* of the provinces. Advertisements were at the same time affixed at the public *cutcherrys* desiring all who might have any cause of complaint against the late *Naib Soubah* to prefer the same that they might be enquired into and redressed. Advertisements have in like manner been affixed at all the public *cutcherrys* to encourage the people to inform against any persons whatever engaged in purchasing up grain in the time of the famine to the destruction of the poor and in direct contradiction to the express orders of the Government.

6. Thus far have we proceeded in the execution of your orders, and upon the return of our President we flatter ourselves with being enabled to give you the result of those measures which we already have and hereafter may find it necessary to pursue for the accomplishment of your intentions upon the subjects abovementioned.

7. Agreeably to the recommendations repeated in your letters for farming the lands of the provinces upon long leases we framed such regulations as appeared to us the best calculated for carrying that plan into execution in the most effectual manner and for the future management of the collections. The first thing considered was the mode in which these regulations were to be executed. And on this head nothing appeared more adviseable than to form a committee of our own members, who by an actual visitation of the districts and local enquiry into the present state and resources might not only be able to settle the lands to the greatest advantage on the new system, but also to furnish us with lights to guide us in time to come to those conclusions which are ever the most earnest object of our solicitude—we mean such as tend to your interest and honor to the prosperity of this country and consequence to our own reputation.

8. In pursuance of these ideas a committee was formed of which it was thought indispensable that the President should be a member, not only because the settlement of the revenue deserved his first attention but because

there were also various matters of importance to be transacted at the City which demanded his presence and immediate agency.

9. The committee was accordingly composed of the Governor, the Chief of the Revenue Council at Moorshedabad, and Messrs Davies [Dacres]<sup>2</sup>, Lawrell and Graham.

10. In the beginning of June they proceeded to Kistnagar, the chief town in Nuddea. This district was an important though disagreeable subject for their first operation. Every thing bore the most discouraging aspect: the country had been greatly desolated by the famine, the lands were abandoned, and the revenue falling to decay. In spite of all these obstacles we have the pleasure to learn from the letters of the committee that they finished the settlement upon advantageous terms. The next ship will convey to you their proceedings at large; at present we must content ourselves to inform you from their advices that the lands were all let to farm for the term of 5 years on an increasing rent from the first year, the amount of which is rupees 10,64,530-10-8-2, to the last, the amount of which is rupees 13,19,695-10-8-2.

11. From Nuddea the committee proceeded to Moorshedabad. They arrived there the beginning of July and have ever since been employed in the management of the various affairs which were committed to their charge.

12. Besides the settlement and new arrangement of the two divisions of Rajeshahy and the numerous lesser collections comprehended with those under the general name of the *Huzzoorzellahs*, they were also charged with the execution of your command concerning the reformation of the Nabob's household and the reduction of his expences. They were farther instructed to consider of the means and settle a plan for conducting the business of the *khalsa* upon the new system prescribed by your orders for taking the office of *Dewan* upon ourselves. The administration of justice has also been an object of their deliberation, and they have it in reference to take the silk investment under their inspection and consideration for the forming of some general resolutions that may tend to the restoration of that important branch of your commerce.

13. The appointments which have been thought indispensable upon the abolition of the office of *Naib Soubah* are as follows: a guardian to the young Nabob, a *Dewan* of his household, and for the business of the collections, a *Dewan* of the *khalsa*. The persons named to these trusts are: Mannee Begum<sup>3</sup> (the relict of the late Nabob Jaffier Aly Cawn)—guardian; Rajah Goordass, the son of Maha Raja Nuncomar—*Dewan*; and Raja Rajabullub, the son of the late Maha Raja Dullubram—*Dewan* of the *khalsa*.

14. The nomination of Mannee Begum to the superintendence of the household and guardianship of the person of the Nabob is a measure from which we expect the happiest consequences. Her known aversion to Mahomed Reza Cawn, and opposition of interests to his, rendered her the fittest person to eradicate his influence in the household, and her high rank and abilities equally qualify her to represent the dignity of the family without any danger to the Company from such pretensions as might be apprehended from any male relation of Jaffier Aly Cawn or from the ambition of any other man of consideration to whom such a trust might be delegated.

15. The Company having thought proper to stand forth themselves as *dewans* of these provinces, it became naturally a subject of consideration whether it would not be expedient to remove the seat of the collections from Moorshedabad to Calcutta. The opulence it might be expected to bring with it by drawing the principal families of the country to reside here by which the demand for imports from our mother country would be greatly increased, and the opportunity we should have of the more immediate inspection and controul of the revenue, supported by other concurrent arguments, convinced us of the urgency of this measure, which we have therefore resolved upon. The arrangements which appear to us necessary to be taken upon this occasion have been fully weighed and digested by the Governor and committee at the City, and having received the assent of the Board we have empowered them to take the necessary steps for carrying it into execution. Our proceedings at large upon this subject will wait upon you by the first direct dispatch from the Presidency.

16. The removing the seat of the collections to the Presidency having rendered unnecessary the revenue establishment [at] Moorshedabad it has been of course withdrawn; and the reluctance with which the late arrangement have been submitted to by a part of the Nabob's household required the presence and constant attention of a person of authority to prevent the Nabob's affairs from falling into more disorder than that from which we have endeavoured to retrieve them. We joined in opinion with the committee on the propriety of continuing the Chief of the Durbar, Resident at the Nabob's Court, and acquiesced in their proposition of uniting the charge of the collections with the provision of the raw silk investment, which from experience we are persuaded will be better encouraged and receive more improvement by the adoption of this mode than by continuing it under the direction of a separate authority; and we hope this measure will meet your approbation.

17. After the allotment of such districts as are judged might be most conveniently settled by the Committee of Circuit, those which fell under our immediate management were the Calcutta lands, the *zellas* of Midnapore, Burdwan, Hughley, Beerboom, and Jessore. Burdwan was last year farmed out for the term of 5 years; Hughley, Beerboom, and Jessore have been let on leases of the same time from this period and to good advantage; the Calcutta lands and Midnapore will next be concluded upon; and we hope in our subsequent advices to be enabled to give you such an account of the settlement of the revenue upon the plan already described as shall prove to your entire satisfaction.

18. Midnapore and the Calcutta lands as yet remain unleased: the former because the Orissa year, agreeably to which the settlement is made, is not yet expired; the latter because we have not been able to obtain an explanation of the heavy ballances which have accumulated from the year 1174<sup>4</sup> amounting at present to about 14,50,000 rupees. And here we are concerned to be under the necessity of remarking that the call we made on the Collector Mr. Holme for the necessary papers to lead to a settlement of the Calcutta lands, being about a month after enforced by a peremptory order from the Superintendent, Mr. Barwell, was noted by the Collector with a degree of contumely and evasion that has forced us to the disagreeable necessity of removing Mr. Holme from his office. And it was with much reluctance we proceeded to this



extremity, but it was necessary in order to vindicate our authority from the disregard with which it had been treated. As soon as the explanation of the ballance due from the Calcutta lands is prepared, we will effect the settlement of those lands on the general plan which we have adopted from your instructions. When the whole is compleated, the revenue of Bengall for the 5 succeeding years, the time to which the leases extend, shall be exhibited to your view in one general statement.

19. The notice which you are pleased to take in the 15th paragraph of your letter per *Lapwing*<sup>5</sup> of a deficiency in the salt duty has influenced us to adopt such measures in regulating the delivery of that article from the Government that we flatter ourselves you will not have any further cause of complaint. The plan which has been long pursued by the Government in the Hughly Custom House is the mode we purpose to introduce and establish throughout all the salt districts of Bengal. And we may presume to pronounce that the effects of a general and uniform system for this important branch of commerce will be equally salutary to the merchant, and advantageous to the public. No improper influence of individuals can then possibly operate, or in its consequences tend, to diminish the produce, which we are sorry to remark has fallen off greatly since the year 1767. It is true the famine must in some degree have contributed to occasion this great difference ; but whilst individuals by various means keep the manufacturers in the greatest indigence, multiplying on the claims which they can never hope to discharge, the manufacturers will of course grow indifferent in proportion as they perceive it impossible to free themselves from the demands made upon them. For these considerations, and to secure to you an adequate revenue from the salt lands, we have determined on following the Houghley plan, which has proved so advantageous to the public by insuring to it a revenue from the salt lands independant of all duty greatly superior to what is collected from any other lands in Bengall, besides freeing the *Molungees* from the state of depression to which they have been reduced by the address of their superiors, the *Holdars* etc. We shall be more particular on this subject in our annual address: our regulations will then have had time to operate, and will of course enable us to present you a statement of the increase of the revenue that will flow to you from this source.

20. In our letters of the 24th January<sup>6</sup> and 9th March we acquainted you with the complaint which had been exhibited against Captain Mackenzie by the inhabitants of Rungpore province and of the accusations afterwards thrown out by Major Grant against the characters of Messrs Lawrell and Purling upon their making the settlement of that province last year. After an examination of the different evidences by the Council of Revenue at Moorsheadabad in support of the former, which appear to have been fully established, we have called upon Captain Mackenzie for what he may have to offer in defence of his conduct, and shall hereafter acquaint you with the final result of this affair.

21. Every opportunity was at the same time given to Captain Mackenzie to support by evidence his assertions against Messrs Lawrell and Purling, but when brought to the test, they appear to have been without foundation. Nor can we imagine that Major Grant's declamatory accusation stands upon better ground, as Captain Mackenzie has, upon our application to him, refused to exhibit and support these proofs of its validity which the Major, in a letter

from on board the ship he embarked on, informed us were lodged with his brother in law to be produced upon demand. The reason he gives for this refusal is the belief he says he is under that they will be rendered of no effect and will not produce that redress which from the proceedings against him he is convinced cannot be obtained here.

22. In our packet last season by the *Rochford*, we transmitted you a representation from Captain John Nevill Parker, and took the liberty, for the reasons then assigned, to recommend his case to your consideration. We now forward by this packet another letter from the same gentleman which he has thought it incumbent on him to address us in consequence of a late publication by Mr. Bolts'. The disingenuous use which has been made of Captain Parker's name in this production rendered such an appeal the more necessary for his justification, as the belief of his having been privy to such a work cannot fail to give you the most unfavourable impressions both of his gratitude and fidelity.

23. We cannot but approve of his feelings on the occasion, and as there seems reason to apprehend that he may have already suffered in your opinion from his conduct previous to his readmission to the service, it is no more than consistent with justice and candor to declare that so far from a temper inclined to faction and cabal, he appears to possess an uncommon gentleness of manners and mildness of disposition, which added to his character as an officer does very justly entitle him to the benefit of that clemency you have so generously extended to almost all those who were concerned in the resignation.

24. It is with the greatest concern we are to acquaint you with the loss of the *Duke of Albany* at her entrance into the river on the 25th July; but this unhappy accident was occasioned by the shifting of the lower buoy of the Barabulla, which misled the pilot to the outer side of the Long-Sand, and in attempting to push over it she grounded, and every endeavour to get her off proved ineffectual. The passengers and crew were providentially saved, but every article on board excepting the packetts were irtrievably lost. Although the shifting of this buoy, as already mentioned, was the cause of the pilot's losing the proper track, yet as he might have anchored upon the first discovery of this mistake, by which means it is judged the ship might have been saved, we thought it necessary by way of example to dismiss him from your service after a court of enquiry had been held upon his conduct, a copy of which makes a number in the packet.

25. This accident to the *Duke of Albany* will leave 8 ships only to be returned to Europe in the present season from this side of India, including the two to be sent round to us from Bombay in consequence of your orders. The gentlemen of Madrass inform us they shall have tonnage for 2½ cargoes; five and half ships will therefore remain for us, and we hope to return them in proper season with a well provided investment.

26. We are sorry to inform you that after the death of Mr. Francis it appeared that he had not made good the entire ballance due from him at the time he delivered over the charge of the Import Warehouse; and as some part of your cash had been blended by him with his own, we made a demand of the amount from his executors, and upon their refusal of payment caused a bill to be filed in the Mayor's Court, which has decreed that the debt is justly

due to the Company, but that they shall be considered as book creditors only. The reasons why the executors did not comply with our demand have by the court been deemed sufficient to vindicate their refusal, and will appear at large in the proceedings held on the cause.

27. Our President laid before us in May last a petition he had received from Mr. Claude Delaporte, who, in conformity to your orders, had been dismissed from his post in the Export Warehouse. The severity and distress which this poor man had laboured under since his dismissal, his old age and infirmities which rendered him incapable of deriving the least support from his own labor, and at the time of his application, a total want of the means of subsistence, pleaded so strongly with us on his behalf that we agreed to grant him his former monthly allowance, convinced that your displeasure would not be excited by an act of compassion towards an old servant who could not by the course of nature survive many months. We are now to inform you that the old man is lately deceased after having benefited by this bounty about three months.

28. We have sent home on this ship on the term of charter party the following persons:

Garrat Cofter . . . . .	Corporal	Francis Wells . . . . .	Private
Jas. Gridley . . . . .	do	William Watson . . . . .	do
Alexdr. McNaughton . . . . .	Private	Jas. Dennis . . . . .	do
John Stockeridge . . . . .	do	Geo. Jones . . . . .	do
Thomas Gunter . . . . .	do	Edmond Duncan . . . . .	do
Samuel Simonds . . . . .	do	William Ritchie . . . . .	do
Hendrick White . . . . .	do	Thomas Lot . . . . .	do
Christian Hall . . . . .	do		

whose passage money has been received by the Captain of our Military Paymaster General.

29. The ballance in our treasury this day was CRs. 5,86,334-6-0, and the ballance of cash this day was CRs. 14,404-12-10.

30. The amount of the invoice of goods laden on this ship from our Export Warehouse is CRs. 4,31,800.

31. We have granted by the *Nottingham* certificates agreeably to the following register.

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>
1 sett dated the 3rd September 1772, to James Williamson, Chief Officer of the ship <i>Nottingham</i> , Captain Peter Stoakes, Commander.	Himself 3,246-12-0
1 sett dated the 4th September 1772, to Robert Smith Bird, Surgeon of the ship <i>Greenwich</i> , Captain Robt. Carr, Commander.	Himself 1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, to Thomas Larkins, Chief Officer of the ship <i>Triton</i> , Captain William Elphinstone, Commander.	Himself 3,246-12-0

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, to Captain Robt. Carr, Commander of the ship <i>Greenwich</i> .	Himself	36,363-10-0
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, to Michael Pallister, Chief Officer of the ship <i>Greenwich</i> , Captain Robt. Carr, Commander.	Himself	3,246-12-0
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, to John Fea, Third Officer of the ship <i>Greenwich</i> , Captain Robert Carr, Commander.	Himself	1,948- 1-0
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, to William Blundell, Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Greenwich</i> , Captain Robt. Carr, Commander.	Himself	1,298-11-3
1 sett dated 5th September 1772, to Henry Gunter, Fifth Officer of the ship <i>Greenwich</i> , Captain Robert Carr, Commander.	Himself	649- 5-9
1 sett dated 5th September 1772, to John Nicholls, Second Officer of the ship <i>Nottingham</i> , Captain Peter Stoakes, Commander.	Himself	2,597- 6-0
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, to Captain Peter Stoakes, Commander of the ship <i>Nottingham</i> .	Himself	36,363-10-0
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, to Samuel Whitewood, Purser of the ship <i>Nottingham</i> , Captain Peter Stoakes, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-0
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, William Wright, Fourth Officer of the ship <i>Nottingham</i> , Captain Peter Stoakes, Commander.	Himself	1,298-11-3
1 sett dated the 5th September 1772, to Thomas Donne, Fifth Officer of the ship <i>Nottingham</i> , Captain Peter Stoakes, Commander.	Himself	649-5-9

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Current rupees 94,805-3-0

Fort William,  
5th September 1772.  
(Per *Nottingham*)

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful humble servants,  
W.A. / T.L. / R.B. / J.H. / H.G.



## SECRET LETTER DATED 5 SEPTEMBER 1772

*Maratha withdrawal from Rohilkhand—attitude towards the treaty between the Vazir and the Rohillas.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

Our last dispatches acquainted you with the victory of the Marrattas at Suckertall and of their subsequent proceedings in the Rohillo country. We also advised you of the alarm which the Vizier took on the occasion and of the measures adopted in consequence by the General in which we did not wholly concur. We have no reason to repent of our conduct on that occasion since the contrary might have involved us in a troublesome and expensive war without any real necessity and our opinion of the little hazard which there was at that time of the Mahrattas making any further progress this way has been so far justified that they have actually confined their operations to the laying waste the Rohillo country, of seizing some of their capital towns without even attempting to invade the Vizier's dominions, or even to move at any great distance from the fords. They have also retreated as we imagined taking occasion of recrossing the river while it was yet low, upon the first intimation of the approaching rains and retiring towards their own country.

2. Since this in consideration of the sum of 40 lacks the Vizier has concluded a treaty with the Rohillos, by which he engages to take an active part in their defence, and he has made a formal requisition of our assistance to protect him from its consequences. We cannot look upon ourselves as bound either by treaty or the principle of sound policy to engage with him in distant schemes either of interest or ambition and we signified these sentiments to him through the President, who on a matter of this importance communicated with the Board at large. We have however given the Vizier to understand that we mean to hold our treaties with him inviolate and though we disapprove of offensive measures, that we mean to grant him an effective support within the limits of his own dominions. What his final determination will be we cannot yet guess, but you may rest assured that we mean most steadfastly to adhere to the line you have laid down for us and to avoid without absolute necessity all military operations foreign to the immediate defence of these provinces, and that of your ally. We cannot however forbear from declaring our apprehensions that the Mahrattas ambition and enterprize will bring that necessity to a nearer period than we could wish especially since they have acquired the possession of the King's person and the sanction of his name and are freed as we understand by their treaty with Hyder Ally Caun from any diversion on his part.

We are with respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithfull humble servants,

W. Aldersey / Thomas Lane / Richd.  
Barwell / James Harris / H. Goodwin.

Fort William  
5th September 1772.  
(Per Nottingham)

of your Ally, -- We cannot however forbear from  
declaring our apprehensions that the Mahallas  
Ambition and Enterprize will bring that Country  
to a new period than we could wish  
especially since they have acquired the  
Popularity of the King's Person and the  
Sanction of his Name and are fixed as we  
understand by their Treaty with Hydr  
Ally far from any Division or Dissent.

at William  
the September 1772.

Yours with Respect  
at Fort St. Louis  
Your faithful humble  
Servants

W. Aldersey  
Thomas Lane  
Capt. Darnell  
James Harris  
H. G. G. G.



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1772

[Revenue Department]

*Reorganisation of Diwani administration : seat of revenue business transferred to Calcutta and placed under the direct control of the Council sitting as a Board of Revenue—state of the province on the assumption of the Diwani : revenue collection for 1771 higher than in 1768 ; general confusion in revenue and judicial administration ; officials corrupt and people oppressed—work of the committee appointed to effect revenue settlement : preference to hereditary zamindars in farming out lands—decision to abolish the Board of Revenue at Murshidabad explained—progress of revenue settlement in districts not referred to the committee set up for the purpose—matters relating to salt and customs—allowances to zamindars of the Twenty-four Parganas District deprived of their lands by the recent upheavals—desirability of uniting revenue collection work and having same regulations in Bengal and Bihar.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. In our address by the *Colebrooke* dated the 13th April last, we acquainted you with the state of your revenues in Bengal to that period since which we have closed the account of the neat settlements and collections for the last Bengal year, a copy of which we now transmit a number in this packet. From it you will please to observe that the total receipts, including some deductions written off to profit and loss in the Moorshedabad treasury, amounted for last year to *sicca* rupees 1,57,26,576-10-2-1, so that the ballances for that year are now reduced to rupees 12,40,812-7-15, a great part of which we shall still hope to realize ; and we flatter ourselves that this reduction of the ballances and the comparative view we hope you will take of the Bengal collections for these several years past with those of the last year will fully satisfy you as to the favorable success we have met with in the collection of the revenues. The Moorshedabad books that will be transmitted you by the next ship compleatly ballanced, will further elucidate the statement of the last year's revenue, which we have now the honour of enclosing.

2. At a meeting of your Council of the 30th August it was unanimously resolved to adopt the plan proposed by our President and members of the Committee of Circuit at Cossimbuzar for removing the seat of the revenue business to the Presidency, and for putting this important branch of your affairs under the immediate management of your Governor and Council, in consequence of which we formed ourselves into a Board of Revenue the 13th ultimo. Since that time all affairs respecting the collections, or internal government of the provinces, have been confined solely to this department, and we shall henceforth address you separately upon all matters which come under these heads.

Com. Circuit Pro-  
ceedings. Cossimr.  
28 July & 20 Augt.



3. In order to give you a distinct idea of this subject, and to make it the more compleat, we shall begin by recapitulating the most *Nottingham.* important measures that have been lately taken, and of which you have been in part advised in our former letters.

4. In our letter by the *Nottingham*, you were informed of our intention of letting the lands throughout the provinces in farm upon long and well regulated leases, and we are happy to reflect that such a material and principal mode of conducting the collections should coincide so entirely with your sentiments and orders on the subject. After the most serious and mature deliberations on this point, we determined, in our proceedings of the Committee of Revenue of the 14th May, to establish a plan for settling the several districts upon this footing, and for the future government of your collections. This being the constitutional groundwork of all our subsequent measures, and of the system which we have since attempted to build upon it, we have thought it necessary, for your more immediate attention, to transmit a copy of it as a number in the packet, with our reasons at large for adopting the regulations therein laid down.

5. Before we proceed further upon this subject, it may not be improper to premise some general remarks on the state of the province at this juncture.

6. The effects of the dreadful famine which visited these provinces in the year 1770, and raged during the whole course of that year, have been regularly made known to you by our former advices, and to the public by labored descriptions, in which every circumstance of fact, and every art of language, have been accumulated to raise compassion, and to excite indignation against your servants, whose unhappy lot it was to be the witnesses and spectators of the sufferings of their fellow creatures. But its influence on the revenue has been yet unnoticed, and even unfelt, but by those from whom it is collected ; for notwithstanding the loss of at least one-third of the inhabitants of the province, and the consequent decrease of the cultivation, the nett collections of the year 1771 exceeded even those of 1768 as will appear from the following abstract of accounts of the Board of Revenue at Moorshedabad for the 4 last years.

*Bengal Year*

1175 or 1768-9	Net collections . . . . .	1,52,54,856-9-4-3
1176 or 1769 .	The year of dearth which was productive of the famine in the following year . . . . .	1,31,49,148-6-3-2
1177 or 1770 .	The year of the famine and mortality . . . . .	1,40,06,030-7-3-2
1178 or 1771 .		1,57,26,576-10- 2-1
	Deduct the amount of deficiencies occasioned in the revenue by unavoidable losses to government . . . . .	3,92,915-11-12-3 = 1,53,33,660-14-9-2

7. It was naturally to be expected that the diminution of the revenue should have kept an equal pace with the other consequences of so great a calamity; that it did not was owing to its being violently kept up to its former standard. To ascertain all the means by which this was effected will not be easy; it is difficult to trace the progress of the collections through all its intricate channels, or even to comprehend all the articles which compose the revenue in its first operations. One tax, however, we will endeavour to describe, as it may serve to account for the equality which

Com. Circuit Proceedings. Kishenr.  
10 & 28 June.

has been preserved in the past collections, and to which it was principally contributed. It is called *najay*, and is an assessment upon the actual inhabitant of every inferior division of the lands to make up for the loss sustained in the rents of their neighbours who are either dead or have fled the country. This tax, though equally impolitic in its institution and oppressive in the mode of exacting it, was authorised by the antient and general usage of the country. It had not the sanction of Government, but took place as a matter of course. In ordinary cases, and while the lands were in a state of cultivation, it was scarcely felt, and never or rarely complained of. However irreconcilable to strict justice, it afforded a reparation to the state for occasional deficiencies; it was a kind of security against desertion by making the inhabitants thus mutually responsible for each other; and precluded the inferior collector from availing himself of the pretext of waste or deserted lands to withhold any part of his collections. But the same practice, which at another time and under different circumstances would have been beneficial, became at this period an insupportable burthen upon the inhabitants. The tax not being levied by any fixed rate or standard fell heaviest upon the wretched survivors of those villages which had suffered the greatest depopulation, and were of course the most entitled to the lenity of Government. It had also this additional evil attending it in common with every other variation from the regular practice: that it afforded an opportunity to the farmers and *shicdars*, to levy other contributions on the people under color of it, and even to encrease this to whatever magnitude they pleased, since they were in course the judges of the loss sustained and of the proportion which the inhabitants were to pay to replace it.

8. Complaints against this grievance were universal throughout the province, and it was to be feared that the continuance of it would be so great a check to the industry of the people as to impoverish the revenue in the last degree when their former savings, by which it was supported, were gone.

9. Though 7 years had elapsed since the Company became possessed of the *Dewanny*, yet no regular process had ever been formed for conducting the business of the revenue. Every zemindarree and every taaluk was left to its own peculiar customs. These indeed were not inviolably adhered to. The novelty of the business to those who were appointed to superintend it, the chicanery of the people whom they were obliged to employ as their agents, the accidental exigencies of each district, and, not unfrequently, the just discernment of the collector, occasioned many changes. Every change added to the confusion which involved the whole, and few were either authorized or known by the presiding members of the Government. The articles which composed the revenue, the form of keeping accounts, the computation of time, even the technical terms, which ever form the greatest part of the

obscurity of every science, differed as much as the soil and productions of the province. This confusion had its origin in the nature of the former Government. The *Nazims* exacted what they could from the zemindars, and great farmers of the revenue, whom they left at liberty to plunder all below them, reserving to themselves the prerogative of plundering them in their turn when they were supposed to have enriched themselves with the spoils of the country. The *mattededdees* who stood between the *Nazim* and the zemindars, or between them and the people, had each their respective shares of the public wealth. These profits were considered as illegal embezzlements, and therefore were taken with every caution which could ensure secrecy; and being consequently fixed by no rule, depended on the temper, abilities or power of each individual for the amount. It, therefore, became a duty in every man to take the most effectual measures to conceal the value of his property, and elude every enquiry into his conduct, while the zemindars and other landholders who had the advantage of long possession availed themselves of it by complex divisions of the lands and intricate modes of collection to perplex the officers of the Government and confine the knowledge of the rents to themselves. It will be easily imagined that much of the current wealth stopped in its way to the public treasury. It is rather foreign from the purpose of this exposition but too apposite not to be remarked that it was fortunate such a system did prevail, since the embezzlements which it covered preserved the current specie of the country, and returned it into circulation, while a great part of the wealth received by the Government was expended in the country, and but a small superfluity remained for remittances to the Court of Delhee, where it was lost for ever to this province.

10. To the original defects inherent in the constitution of these provinces were added the unequal and unsettled government of them since they became our property. A part of the lands which were before in our possession, such as Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, continued subject to the authority of their chiefs, who were immediately accountable to the Presidency. The 24 Pergunnahs, granted by the Treaty of Plassey to the Company, were theirs on a different tenure, being their immediate property by the exclusion of the zemindars or hereditary proprietors: their rents were received by agents appointed to each *pergunnah* and remitted to the Collector who resided in Calcutta.

The rest of the province was for some time entrusted to the joint charge of the *Naib Dewan* and Resident of the Durbar, and afterwards to the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad, and to the Supervisors who were accountable to that Council. The administration itself was totally excluded from a concern in this branch of the revenue.

11. The internal arrangement of each district varied no less than that of the whole province. The lands subject to the same collectors and intermixed with each other were some held by farm, some superintended by *shicdars* or agents on the part of the collector, and some left to the zemindars or taalucdars themselves, under various degrees of controul. The first were racked without mercy, because the leases were but of a year's standing, and the farmer had no interest or check to restrain him from exacting more than the land could bear. The second were equally drained and the rents embezzled, as it was not possible for the collector, with the greatest degree of attention

on his part, to detect or prevent it. The latter, it may be supposed, were not exempted from the general corruption. If they were, the other lands which lay near them would suffer by the migration of their inhabitants, who would naturally seek refuge from oppression in milder and more equitable government.

12. The administration of justice has so intimate a connection with the revenue that we cannot omit the mention of it while we are treating of this subject in a general view, although we have already given our sentiments upon it at large in another place to which we shall crave leave to refer. The security of private property is the greatest encouragement to industry in which the wealth of every state depends. The limitation of the powers annexed to the magistracy, the suppression of every usurpation of them by private authority, and the facilitating of the access to justice, are the only means by which such a security could be obtained. But this was impossible under the circumstances which had hitherto prevailed. While the *Nizamut* and the *Dewanee* were in different hands, and all the rights of the former were admitted, the courts of justice which were the sole province of the *Nizam*, though constituted for the general relief of the subjects, could receive no reformation. The court and officers of the *Nizamut* were continued, but their efficacy was destroyed by the ruling influence of the *Dewanee*. The regular course of justice was everywhere suspended; but every man exercised it who had the power of compelling others to submit to his decisions. The people were oppressed; they were discouraged and disabled from improving the culture of their lands; and in proportion as they had the demands of individuals to gratify, they were prevented from discharging what was legally due to Government.

13. Such was the state of the revenue when your commands were received by the *Lapwing*<sup>1</sup>, and happily removed the difficulties which had hitherto opposed the introduction of a more perfect system by abolishing the office of *Naib Duan*, and authorising your administration to assume openly the management of the *Dewanee* in your name without any foreign intervention.

14. In the execution of these your intentions, the points which claimed our principal attention, as will appear from the above description, were to render the accounts of the revenue simple and intelligible, to establish fixed rates for the collections, to make the mode of them uniform in all parts of the province, and to provide for an equal administration of justice. In the steps which we have already taken, we have labored to obtain these ends; with what success will be seen hereafter.

15. The regulations which we have beforementioned being compleated and the Committee of Circuit appointed consisting (as we mentioned in our last) of the Governor, Messrs. Middleton, Dacres, Lawrell and Graham, we published our intention of farming all the lands of the province of Bengal on lease of five years, and invited all persons to make proposals.

16. The Committee first proceeded to Kishennagur, and there entered on the settlement of the District of Nuddea. The proposals which were there

Com. Circuit Pro- delivered to them were expressed in so vague and uncertain  
ceedings. Kishennr. a manner, and differed so widely from each other in form,  
10 & 28 June. that it was impossible to make a comparison, or to ascertain the proportional amount of each; and the few only that were intelligible,



contained very low and disadvantageous terms. The Committee were therefore of opinion that these offers should be rejected, and that the lands should be put up at public auction though contrary to the original intention. To remove all obstacles that might present themselves from an uncertainty in the bidders with respect to the more minute articles of the collections, and the grounds on which the settlement was to be established between the farmer and cultivator, the Committee found it indispensably necessary, before the sale began, to form an entire new *hustabood* or explanation of the diverse and complex articles which were to compose the collections. These consisted of the *assall* or original ground rent and a variety of taxes called *aboabs*, which had been indiscriminately levied at different periods by the Government, the zemindars, farmers and even by the interior collections. One of these *aboabs* we have explained above, many of these are incapable of any explanation.

17. After the Committee had made a thorough investigation of the above articles of the revenue, they proposed to deduct such as appeared most oppressive to the inhabitants, or of a late establishment, at the same time reserving those which were of long standing, and had been cheerfully submitted to by the ryotts, these being in fact a considerable part of the neat rents. Among the former were the duties arbitrarily levied by the zemindars and farmers upon all goods and necessities of life passing by water through the interior part of the country. The *bazeejumma* or fines for petty crimes and misdemeanors were also, agreeably to the human and equitable spirit of your orders, totally abolished, as well as the *haldary* or tax upon marriage, which yielded a trifling revenue to Government, was very injurious to the state, and could tend only to the discouragement and decrease of population, an object at all times of general importance, but more especially at this period from the great loss of inhabitants which the country has sustained by the late famine and the mortality which attended it. These several deductions in favor of the natives, although the immediate cause of decreasing the rent roll, will doubtless in time be productive of the most salutary effects, as they tend to encourage the manufactures and trade of the country, to retrieve the loss of inhabitants, to free the people from vexatious prosecutions, and by promoting the general ease of the country, virtually to support and improve its revenue.

18. In order to secure the inhabitants in the quiet possession of the lands whilst they held them on terms of cultivation, and to prevent such exactions as aforementioned in future, the Committee formed new *amulnamas* or leases, in which the claims upon the ryotts were precisely and distinctly ascertained, and the farmers restricted from making any further demands, under the severest penalties. To this end, and to prevent the farmers from eluding this restriction, they were ordered to grant new *pottahs* or deeds to the ryotts, the form of which was drawn out by the Committee and made public, specifying the conditions on which they were to hold their land, the separate heads or articles of the rents; and every encouragement was contained in them to cultivate the waste ground on a moderate and increasing rent.

19. Another principal object with the Committee was to reduce the charges of collection as low as possible from a conviction that the retrenchment of improper and unnecessary expences opens a source of increase of

revenue, the most eligible because the most consistent with the ease of the inhabitants.

For this purpose, we have formed an uniform and regular establishment for all the necessary charges to be incurred in the *cutcherries* of the several districts, under positive restrictions that they shall not be exceeded without our being previously advised. This, we doubt not, will prove a great saving to the Honorable Company as it will be the effectual means of preventing in future all superfluous and unnecessary disbursements. And we think we may venture to promise that this article will be duly attended to, as it will be almost the only care of the auditor to prevent every deviation from it in the accounts which are to pass his inspection.

20. After these previous steps were resolved on, the lands of Kishenagur were put up to public auction and a final settlement was made for five years on an accumulating increase, for the particulars of which we must beg leave to refer you to the proceedings of the Committee which are now transmitted.

21. During the course of the sale at Kishenagur, the Rajah of that place gave in proposals for farming the whole district, which leads us to the following general observations on the subject of zemindars and talookdars in the province of Bengal.

22. Where it can be done with propriety, the entrusting the collections of the districts to the hereditary zemindars would be a measure we should be very willing to adopt, as we believe that the people would be treated with more tenderness, the rents more improved, and the cultivation more likely to be encouraged, the zemindar less liable to failure or deficiencies than the farmer from the perpetual interest which the former hath in the country, and because his inheritance cannot be removed, and it would be improbable he would risk the loss of it by eloping from his district, which is too frequently practised by a farmer when he is hard pressed for the payment of his ballances, and as frequently predetermined when he receives his farm.

23. With respect to the talookdarrys and inconsiderable zemindarrys which formed a part of the *Hazzorzellahs* or districts which paid their rents immediately to the general *cutcherry* at Moorshedabad, as well as many others

Com. Circuit Pro-  
ceedings. Cossimr.  
20 July.

of the same kind in different parts of Bengal, all arguments have been weighed, whether in favor of the just claim Government has upon their lands for a revenue adequate to their real value, or of the zemindars and talookdars in support of their rights and privileges, grounded upon the possession of regular grants, a long series of family succession, and fair purchase. These being duly considered, there occurred to us only the two following modes which could be pursued in making their settlement. The first was to lett their lands to farm ; to put the rentees in entire possession and authority over them, obliging them to pay each zemindar or talookdar a certain allowance or percentage for the subsistence of himself and family. The second was to settle with the zemindars themselves on the footing of farmers, obliging them first to enter into all the conditions of a farmer's lease ; secondly to pay the same revenue that could be expected from farmers ; thirdly to give responsible securities and fourthly to admit a reserve in favor of Government for making during the course of their actual lease an exact *hustabood* (valuation from accounts) or a measurement of

their possessions in order to ascertain their true value at a future settlement, should the present accounts be found to be fallacious or concealments suspected. We have allowed a degree of weight to the arguments of the zemindars and talookdars in favor of their plea of right, which by adopting the first mode of settlement would doubtless be exposed to risk ; for as the authority given to the farmers would reduce the present incumbents to the level of mere pensioners, and greatly weaken their claims as proprietors, so in the course of a few long leases, their rights and titles might, from the designs of the farmers to establish themselves in their estates, the death of the old inheritors, and the succession of minors, be involved in such obscurity, doubt and controversy, as to deprive them totally of their inheritance. To expose the zemindars and talookdars to this risk is neither consistent with our

30th June 1769. notions of equity, nor with your orders, which direct "that we do not by any sudden change alter the constitution, nor deprive the zemindars etc., of their ancient privileges and immunities". Another argument drawn from the conduct naturally to be expected from the zemindars and talookdars weighed strongly with us, and proves an objection to adopting the first mode. From a long continuance of the lands in their families, it is to be concluded they have rivetted an authority in the district, acquired an ascendancy over the minds of the ryotts, and ingratiated their affections. From causes like these, if entire deprivation were to take place, there could not be expected less material effects than all the evils of a divided authority, prejudice to the revenue, and desertion and desolation to the lands ; whereas from continuing the lands under the management of those who have a natural and perpetual interest in their prosperity, provided their value is not of too great an amount, solid advantages may be expected to accrue. Every consideration then sways us, where it can be done with the prospect of the advantages before mentioned, to adopt the second mode in settling with the inferior zemindars and talookdars. First, an equivalent revenue may be thereby obtained with security for its punctual payment. Secondly, the converting them into farmers establishes the Government's right of putting their lands on that footing, whenever they shall think proper, the awe of which must constantly operate to ensure their good behaviour and good management. Thirdly, the clause of scrutiny to which they are subjected will also have the same tendency, at the same time that it may be strictly put in force where there is cause to suspect concealments, or a prospect presents of increase to the revenue.

24. Agreeably to these ideas, the Committee at Kishenagur exempted the several talooks in that district from the public sale, as the possessors Com. Circuit Pro- engaged to abide by such a settlement as should be ceedings. Kishenr. deemed equitable and just ; and an exact valuation was accordingly made of their lands. It was, however, found that the terms offered by the zemindar of Kishenagur, as before mentioned, were not equivalent to the expectations the Committee had reason to entertain from the public auction of the separate farms ; and the faith of Government having been already engaged to such farmers whose offers had been formally accepted, for these reasons, joined with the well-known subtle and faithless character of the zemindar, it was determined to reject his proposals, and to give the preference to the offers of the farmers, which were more advantageous to Government.

25. The settlement of Kishenagur being concluded, a fixed *Dewan* was chosen by the Committee to be joined with the Collector in the superintendancy of the revenues, conformably to our established regulations before referred to; and instructions were accordingly given him for his guidance.

26. We have been thus explicit in relating the transactions at Kishenagur, both as these will serve to point out the various effects of our previous determinations, as well as the motives which gave occasion to those which were superadded by the Committee from local or general observations, and to convey an idea of the plan of which the settlement of the whole province will be formed, of which that of Kishenagur may be regarded as the model.

27. From Kishenagur the Committee proceeded to Cossimbuzar, and arrived there the beginning of July. One of their first objects was the regulating Nabob's household and stipend, and the appointing the necessary officers for the management of his affairs. But as these matters will be fully discussed in our letter from the General Department, we shall confine this address solely to the current business of the revenue.

28. The province of Radshahy and the *Huzzoorzelahs* were taken next into consideration and the same regulations established previous to their settlement as at Kisenagur, public advertisements being made for receiving proposals for farming the different *pergunnahs* in Radshahy, and a proper time limited for their delivery. The terms given in for the whole of the western division were examined, and the offers of the farmers and zemindar accurately compared. Those of the latter were found more advantageous to Government; a settlement for five years was accordingly concluded with the Ranny Bowanny<sup>2</sup>, the zemindar of that district, whose substance, credit and character rendered the conditions of her offer the more desirable, especially as she consented to the Committee's plan of sub-dividing the lands into fourteen lots or farms, and engaged to deposit the farmer's *cabooleats* or agreements as a collateral security with her own for the punctual payment of her rents. No other proposals being given in for the eastern division of Radshahy, it was in like manner farmed to the zemindar, whose knowledge of, and long established reputation in, the country enabled her to make more advantageous offers for this also than any other person; and we doubt not but we shall realize the whole of the revenue from these important and extensive districts, which will receive an additional advantage, besides a reduction of the expence of the collections, in being thus united under their hereditary and ancient proprietor.

29. For the particular reasons and arguments urged in our several proceedings referred to in the margin, and which will be further treated on in our letter from the other department, you will observe that we have found it expedient to annex to Mr. Middleton's appointment of Resident at the Durbar and Chief of Cossimbuzar, the superintendancy of the collections of Radshahy, in the conducting of which, the whole being put under the immediate management of the zemindar, his only care as Collector will be to receive the single

Com. Circuit Proceedings.  
Cossimr.  
7 July & 11 July.

Do. '16 July.

3 Augt.

29 Augt.

Com. Circuit Proceedings.  
20 Augt.  
25 Do.



monthly *kists* as they may become due, to attend to the complaints and representations of the ryotts, and to see that the regulations which have been made are duly adhered to.

30. The *Huzzoorzelahs* and the inferior zemindarries and talookdarries bordering on Moorshedabad and Radshahy were also settled on the same plan, a preference being always given to the offers of the hereditary possessors as before observed. But as it would take up too much of your time to descend to a minute detail of these numerous settlements, we must take the liberty of referring you to the proceedings of the Committee of Circuit. You will therein notice that we have appointed five additional Collectors to superintend the revenue of those districts. It was with some reluctance we found ourselves under the necessity of increasing the number of these appointments. They were rendered unavoidable by the intricacy of those parts of the *Huzzoorzelahs* which have been thus distributed amongst them; but we hope that the liberty which we have given to the farmers who may be so disposed to pay their rents immediately to the *sudder* or head *cutcherry* will in time enable us to reduce these establishments.

Do. 6 Augt.  
7 Augt.  
3 Sept.

20 Augt.  
3 Sept.

31. In the intervals of public business, the Committee were employed in deliberating on the steps referred to them which were proper to be taken for carrying into execution your late orders by the *Lapwing*, where you declare your intention of “standing forth as *Dewan* by the agency of the Company’s servants, to assume the entire management of the revenues”, leaving it to us to plan and execute this important work, “by adopting such regulations, and pursuing such measures, as should at once insure to the Company every possible advantage”.

Com. Circuit Proceedings. 28 July.

32. The first consideration was whether the Board of Revenue at Moorshedabad should be abolished, and the business of the collections in all its branches put under the management of the members of your administration at the Presidency; and after allowing due weight to every argument that occurred, we agreed unanimously with the Committee in the necessity of this last measure, which has accordingly been since carried into execution. We take the liberty of laying before you the grounds upon which we have ventured to make this alteration, in the flattering hopes that it will meet with your approval.

33. As the administration of justice and the collection of the revenue are by far the most important objects of government, they certainly claim the first attention of your President and Council, especially at a time when so many weighty matters intimately connected with them are entrusted by you to our investigation and judgement, and when the state of the country requires timely, well digested, and spirited measures. While the controuling and executive part of the revenue and the correspondence with the Collectors was [were] carried on by a Council at Moorshedabad, the members of your administration had not an opportunity of acquiring that thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the revenue which can only result from practical experience. But as your late orders tend to establish a new system, enjoin many new regulations and enquiries which could not properly be delegated to a subordi-

nate council, it became absolutely necessary that the business of the revenue should be conducted under our immediate observation and direction.

34. This change, we trust, will afford great relief to the inhabitants of the provinces in opening to them a more ready access to justice, insomuch that appeals from the decisions of the inferior courts may now be made directly to the Presidency, whereas, formerly, they were first transmitted to the Council at Moorshedabad, and from thence an appeal lay to us.

35. Another good consequence will be the great increase of inhabitants and of wealth in Calcutta, which will not only add to the consumption of our most valuable manufactures imported from home, but will be means of conveying to the natives a more intimate knowledge of our customs and manners, and of conciliating them to our policy and government.

36. Besides the reasons above urged for the dissolution of the Council at Moorshedabad, we must beg leave to add this further argument in reply to the objection which may possibly be made to it as repugnant to your commands of the 30th June 1769. We now conceive them, however, to be superseded by your later orders, and the discretionary powers you have given us in your letter by the *Lapwing*. Nevertheless we should have thought ourselves indispensably bound to have adhered to the spirit of them, so far as they could be made to coincide with the new system of the *Dewany*; but we found them totally subverted by it.

37. While Moorshedabad remained the seat of your collections, every consideration required the establishment of a council to superintend them, as it was a trust every way too great for an individual. On these grounds alone we presume your orders for forming such councils at Moorshedabad and Patna were framed. But when the office of *Naib Duan* was abolished, and you had declared your resolution to place the collection under the immediate charge of your own servants, there remained no reason for continuing that department of the revenue at such a distance from the observation of your Governor and Council; and the removal of the collection to the Presidency, as it left no business for an inferior council, of course rendered their continuance, and the charges attending such an establishment, needless. We will indulge ourselves therefore with another hope that an annual saving of some lakhs of rupees will be derived from this alteration, although we are well aware of the expence and inconvenience which ever attends innovations of all kinds on their first institution.

38. As the reasons for the removal of the *khalsa* are treated on very largely in proceedings of the Committee of Circuit of 28th July, and contain many observations on the nature of the revenue in general, which are too voluminous to be inserted in the body of this letter, we wish to recommend these to your particular attention.

39. The plan which we have formed for conducting the business of the Com. Circuit Pro- *khalsa*, or superior office of the collections, will go a number ceedings. 20 Augt. in the packet.

40. The more regular administration of justice was also deliberated on by the Committee of Circuit, and a plan was formed by 15 Augt. them which afterwards met with our approbation. We cannot give you a better idea of the grounds on which this was framed than by

referring you to a copy of it, together with a letter from the Committee to the Board on the occasion, both of which make numbers in this packet; and we earnestly recommend these to your perusal, requesting to be assisted with such further orders and instructions thereon as they may require for compleating the system which we have thus endeavoured to establish on the most equitable solid and permanent footing. We hope they will be read with that indulgence which, we are humbly of opinion, is due to a work of this kind, undertaken on the plain principles of experience and common observation, without the advantages which an intimate knowledge of the theory of law might have afforded us. We have endeavored to adapt our regulations to the manners and understanding of the people, and exigencies of the country, adhering, as closely as we were able, to their antient usages and institutions. It will be still a work of some months, we fear, before they can be thoroughly established throughout the provinces; but we shall think our labors amply recompensed if they meet with your approbation, and are productive of the good effects we had in view.

41. Our President returned to Calcutta about the middle of September. Mr. Middleton remained at Moorshedabad to take charge of his appointment;

5 Sept. and the other three members of the Committee of Circuit proceeded to Dacca, where they are now employed in making the settlement of that province and the adjacent districts, after which they will continue their tour to the remaining divisions on the eastern side of Bengal; and we hope to transmit the further particulars of their proceedings by one of the ships of this season, together with a compleat statement of your revenue for the following five years.

42. Besides the general plan beforementioned for regulating the new system of conducting the revenues and the several other points therein referred to, the Committee of Revenue at the Presidency, composed of the remaining members of your Council, were employed in preparing the settlements of the districts of Houghly, Midnapore, Burbhoom, Jessore, and the Calcutta lands. These, together with the districts allotted to the Committee of Circuit, compleat the whole of Bengal, excepting Burdwan, where the lands are already, lett in farm on leases of five years, which do not expire till the end of the Bengal year 1182.

43. In consequence of the public advertisement for making the settlement of Houghly, a number of proposals for farming the lands were delivered in; and after an exact scrutiny was made into them, those which appeared to be the most advantageous to Government were accepted. It was originally intended to have lett them in small farms, but the offers for large lots being much higher than the others, we were tempted to prefer them. There were likewise many talookdarries and petty zemindarries in the district, the possessors of which represented to us the length of time they had held their lands, and the wretched condition they would be reduced to, were they now to be deprived of them. As they engaged to pay the Government an increased rent in proportion to their value, we were induced, by the same motives as actuated the Committee of Circuit in similar instances, to continue to them their hereditary possessions. In one or two of the *pergunnas* some deductions were found necessary to be made on account of the particular degree in which they had suffered by the late famine; but a favorable increase being added to the other

*pergunnas*, we have reason to be satisfied with the good success which has attended the settlement of Houghly and its dependancies.

44. The settlement of Beerbhoom, Bissenpoor, and Pacheat has also been effected upon an increasing revenue on a plan similar to the other farmed lands.

45. The districts of Jessore and Mahomed Shahy are settled on terms advantageous to Government, as appears by the accounts delivered in by Mr. Lane, a Member of our Board, who was deputed to accomplish that business ; and a full representation of his proceedings is recorded on our Consultation of the 10th of August.

46. By the proceedings it appears that the Calcutta lands have been compleatly farmed ; but as some of the farmers have flown off from their engagements and absconded, and the execution of the title deeds with the rest is delayed, we have hitherto been prevented from finally adjusting this business. We shall, therefore, defer transmitting a statement of these lands till the next ship, as well as that of the Midnapoor, the settlement of which is now in great forwardness.

47. In pursuance of your positive injunctions, we have been endeavoring for some time past to collect the fullest information concerning the salt business in Bengal, that we may be enabled to form such regulations as shall appear the best calculated for securing the duties of Government upon that article, and for the general benefit of the trade. For our proceedings in these matters so far as we have hitherto been able to effect, we refer you to the Consultations now transmitted, and particularly to that of the 7th October. And as the subject is one of the first that will fall under our consideration, we expect in our next advices to furnish you with a compleat state of it.

48. The Houghly disputed ballances of salt, which have been a matter of contention and difficulty for these two years past, we have at length happily adjusted, as recorded in our proceedings of the 1st of October.

49. The *bukshbunder* or customs at Houghly, as well as those of the *Pachetra* at Moorshedabad, have not been lett to farm, but continue to be collected by the officers of Government in order that no obstacles may occur in new-modelling this source of your revenue agreeably to your instructions. At present, we wait for advices and further lights from the Committee of Circuit at Dacca concerning the *Shawbunder* or Head Custom House in that district. Being furnished with these, we shall proceed to form one general and uniform plan for the collection of duties, which will be duly transmitted for your information.

50. The humane attention shewn in your commands of the 30th June, 1769, and recommended in many of your letters since that date to the rights of the zemindars who have inherited lands from their ancestors encourages us to solícite your compassion for the ancient proprietors of the Twenty-four Pergunnas or Calcutta lands which became the Company's zemindarry by the Treaty of Plassey, and from which they were consequently dispossessed. A small part of these lands were before that time united with the zemindarries of Burdwan and Nuddea, whose zemindars are amply provided for. The other zemindars and talucdars have continued since that time in a state of extreme indigence. Some of them have large families to maintain. It has been the usual rule of the Mogul Government when any zemindar was divested



of authority to allow him a substance out of the rents of his zemindarree, proportioned to the annual income of it. This proportion commonly amounted to one-tenth. We would not recommend so large an allowance for these people. We are persuaded that they will be contented with a much more moderate income, and receive it with gratitude. As this indulgence has been extended to all the other zemindars in both the provinces since they were placed under your Government, we have judged that this representation of the case of those who alone have been excluded from it would not be unacceptable to you.

51. As the settlement of the province of Bahar had been made for a term of years, and therefore did not require any immediate alteration, we shall wait to finish the whole of our regulations in Bengal before we attempt any innovations in that province. The only point on which we think we can give you any previous intimation of our future proceedings in these parts is that we deem it proper to unite the collections with those of Bengal, and establish the same regulations in both provinces as soon as we can do it with conveniency and without adding to our present embarrassments.

52. In the proceedings of our Committee of Revenue of the 10th May is recorded the particulars of a dispute which subsisted between the late Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad and the Supervisor of Dinagepore, Mr. Henry Cottrell, the consequence of which was the recalling the latter from his appointment. The several arguments urged against his conduct by the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad, as well as his letter in vindication of himself, appear fully in the above proceedings; and we must beg leave to refer you to them that you may form such a judgment of this affair as your candor and justice may point out.

We are with great respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,  
Warren Hastings / Rt. Barker / Wm.  
Aldersey / Thomas Lane / Richd.  
Barwell / James Harris / H. Goodwin.

Fort William,  
the 3rd November 1772.  
(Per *Lapwing*)

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1772

*The Marathas: Rohilkhand ravaged after the defeat of the Rohillas; Vazir, wooed by both the Marathas and the Rohillas, enters into an agreement with the latter; Shah Alam's desire to reunite with the Vazir and the Company, but this conduct equivocal; Maratha demand on the Vazir for the cession of Kora, Allahabad and Benares; Company's promise of "defensive assistance" to the Vazir in case of attack—European adventurers with the Vazir—difference of opinion between Barker and the Select Committee relative to the movement*

*of the First Brigade into Oudh: assurance to Court that an aggressive war would not be engaged in.*

**T**O the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. The gentlemen who form the Select Committee were so much dispersed at the time of the *Nottingham's* dispatch that they were unable to give you any relation of the political transactions in this quarter farther than acquainting you in general terms of the danger to which the peace of the Vizier's country was exposed, either from the effects of his own ambition, or that of his reputed enemies. The translation of the Vizier's letter with the President's reply forwarded by that ship were the best explanations of the subject with which we could then furnish you.<sup>1</sup>

2. We will now, Honorable Sirs, endeavor to give you an ample and explicit narrative of every event in the circle of your Political Department from the dispatch of the *Colebrooke*,<sup>2</sup> which, together with the broken sett of our proceedings, will enable you to decide with precision on every matter of which it may be necessary to treat.

3. Our letter by the *Rochford*<sup>3</sup> conveyed intelligence of the decisive victory 'obtained' by the Mhorattahs and Nijib Cawn over the Rhohillah forces, collected to defend the fords of the Ganges, and of the flight and consternation of their chiefs, who, separately with their families and treasure, sought their safety from the impending danger in the inaccessible parts of their country. It gave likewise an account of the apprehensions entertained by the Vizier of their pursuing their success into the very heart of his own dominions, of his request to General Barker, and the march of the 1st Brigade in consequence [and] of the reasons which induced the Committee to countermand its progress.

4. The Mhorattahs, after the defeat of the Rhohillahs, prosecuted without any interruption their ravages on the defenceless country, if we except a little resistance which they encountered from Nijib Gur, and some other forts, which however soon capitulated, and furnished the conquerors with the most acceptable of all plunder—grain and treasure.

5. Their insolence was now immoderate. Their success had been equal to their most sanguine expectations, and seemed to pave the way for further depredations to the southward. They were in possession of the person of the King, whose authority they contemned and whose name and mandates they regarded solely as the instruments of their own aggrandisement. And so far were they from re-establishing him in his government that they positively refused to perform their engagements of sharing with him the spoils of the vanquished, and he was left almost destitute in the midst of a rich and plentiful camp of the common necessities required to support at least an appearance of dignity.

6. Thus, flushed, it was supposed, and indeed with a great appearance of reason, that they would not lose any time in either obliging the Vizier to submit to the terms which they might be inclinable to impose or of attacking his dominions; but whether it was from the assistance which the English

afforded him, together with the good disposition of his own troops, whether the dissensions prevailing among their chiefs, or the delays attending the settlement of the country, or which appears to us the more probable conclusion, that they were not yet prepared for a war with the English, to which such an attempt would have inevitably led, necessitated them to confine their views within the limits of their present conquest, cannot now be determined ; but on the approach of the rains, and without attempting any thing further, they recrossed the Ganges, for they had either ravaged the districts so effectually that they were apprehensive of not finding support for their army during their continuance on this side, or they were not desirous of remaining in a situation where they might have been attacked by the allied army with every advantage, and when all possibility of retreat was cut off by the swelling of the rains and rapidity of its current.

7. Now ensued a scene of negotiation peculiar to Hindostan princes, and in which the Vizier from the nature of his situation must unavoidably bear an important part. The event will determine the stability of the engagements entered into in consequence.

8. Hafez Rhamet, the Rhohillah Chief, whose proximity of dominion to that of Soujah ul Dowlah had forcibly induced him to regard it with an eye of jealousy, relieved a little from the first alarm, now commenced a negotiation with the Vizier to effect through his mediation an accommodation with the invaders. The Mhorattahs were not averse to the Vizier's interference upon this occasion, provided an adequate *chout* was settled for them. They had, however, previous to this, made him offers of that part of the conquered territory which lays contiguous to his own as they were only desirous of retaining for themselves the tract of land to the westward of the Ganges—and Zabita Cawn's country having been already made over to the King, there remained only that of Hafez Rhamet unappropriated, and it was a matter of very little concern to them who held the possession of it, provided their own emolument was primarily and principally considered.

9. A chain of concurring circumstances induced the Vizier instantly to close with so flattering proposal, the principal links of which seemed to be the accession of so large a tract of country to his own, and his solicitude to extirpate a family with whom he had long held an hereditary enmity ; and it is said, that he was even inclinable to take advantage of the present distress of the Rhohillahs and possess himself of their dominions, the moment the Mhorattahs should be obliged to leave it. We believe the General was a principal means of diverting him from a scheme so little consistent with prudence or equity.

10. His demands notwithstanding from the Rhohillahs, before he would engage himself in their favor, were exorbitant: he required the payment of 100 laaks of rupees, 30 or 40 to be given to the Mhorattahs, and the residue to be appropriated to his own use and to the defrayment of the extra expences incurred by the march of the brigade.

11. Convinced at length of the impropriety of making the Mhorattahs partys in any cause with himself, he concluded a treaty with the Rhohillahs, in which it was stipulated that in consideration of their paying him 40 laaks, he was to assist them in future against their common enemy and re-establish them in the possessions which had been wrested from them.

12. Zabitah Cawn, with the small remains of his army, together with Hafez Rhamet, who had thus thrown themselves into the Nabob's protection and had paid him a visit in his encampment on the frontier, the better to convince him of their sincerity and the reliance they reposed in his honor, were now dismissed with the greatest professions of cordiality, although it had been particularly required of the Vizier by the Mhorattahs that he should deliver them into their hands.

13. During these transactions His Majesty was not in a situation much to be envied. We have already shewn the little deference which the Mhorattahs paid him after their victory: neither has he since experienced the least alteration. His anxiety, which probably gratitude might have prompted, to prevent their commencing hostilities with the Vizier and the Company could not be very pleasing to them: and if we may form a judgement from his letters at this juncture, he was very desirous of reuniting himself with his former allies. There is, however, little dependance to be placed in the assertions of a man who at the time he is making the most avowed professions of the sincerity of his attachment to the Nabob and the English, and who, when an invasion of their possessions was proposed in the Mhorattah councils publicly and strongly remonstrated against it, was secretly giving it as his opinion that dissensions by some means or other ought previously to be sown between them in order to insure any certainty of success, and that when this could be effected, the Royal approbation should not be wanting.

14. The Mhorattahs have not failed of availing themselves of every advantage which the weakness and distressed circumstances of this prince too unavoidably gives them. They have obliged him very reluctantly, to grant them *sunnods* for Myrutt, a tract of country which preserves the communication with their own; and no doubt they will continue, as in the present instance, to exact his compliance with every measure, no matter how disgraceful to him, that carries a tendency to raise them to that summit of power which they have for so many years, and so effectually, been exerting themselves to acquire.

15. Scarcely were the negotiations between the Rhohillahs and the Vizier finally concluded, but the Mhorattahs, who had patiently awaited the result of them, finding themselves entirely excluded, and a treaty of defence entered into against them, now made a shew of revenging themselves upon the latter, and demanded of him, if he would ensure his own tranquility at the conclusion of the rains, to cede to them the provinces of Corah, Allahabad and Benaras, to deliver into their hands the settlement he had made with the Rhohillah chiefs, to discharge all sums for which the King now stood indebted to them, and to unite with them against every opponent—demands which they knew it was impossible he should comply with.

16. When these requisitions were first made, or whether any intimation of them had been before given to the Vizier, we are not informed; the intelligence which he gave us of them was sudden and abrupt: they first appear in his letter received the 17th July, accompanied with other arguments urging the immediate necessity of our sending a body of our troops to his assistance.

17. The President, with the concurrence of the Board, informed him in answer that, as he expected very shortly to receive such instructions from his



constituents as might enable him to form some general plan of defence against the encroaching power of the Mhorattahs to include likewise the protection of their allies nothing finally could be determined upon on his part until these should arrive, in the meantime that nothing more than a defensive assistance could be granted him.

18. The Vizier, however, has since, in stronger terms, reiterated his solicitations ; for Zabitah Cawn, whose cause he had very pompously espoused, and who had jointly with Hafez Rhamet entered into a solemn treaty by which he obliged himself to pay the Vizier a gratification of 40 laaks of rupees for his protection, has since forsaken him, and in violation of that treaty, concluded a new one with the Mhorattahs, whom he has in consequence actually joined. This defection and the probability of the other Rhohillah chiefs following his example has not a little contributed to his fancied insecurity ; we say fancied, because we are by no means of opinion that the Mhorattahs would hazard a war with the whole of the Company's settlements, the effect of attacking our ally, without having previously concerted some general plan which might give them a plausibility of success.

19. Nevertheless, to quiet the alarms of the Vizier and to ensure his steadyness and attachment, the First Brigade, with the concurrence of the Board, was ordered to join him without delay, although there was little probability of the Mhorattahs attempting to cross the Ganges until it became fordable in the month of February.

20. To deprive them likewise of every pretext for disturbing his possessions, it was also judged expedient the President should write to the Mhorattah chiefs, Madarow and Bysagee, the actual commanders of their forces to the northward, acquainting them of our extreme dissatisfaction at the hostile appearance which they had for some time carried towards the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah, and that however we might on our part be pacifically inclined, we considered ourselves as firmly bound by treaty to defend his territories against every invader.

21. By the latest intelligence, we are informed that the Mhorattahs after the surrender of Chorjah, a fort in the Jaut country, were undetermined from the resistance they there met with in their resolutions of attacking Ramgur, a fort of much greater consequence, and that they were not unwilling to enter into a compromise with the Jauts, which might leave them at liberty to cross the Ganges at Furruckabad, and of attacking without delay the country of Hafez Rhamet.

22. The Vizier upon this intelligence and the solicitations of that chief has given orders for all his troops to be in readiness to take the field, and in the mean time he continues to watch every movement of the Mhorattah armies with the most interested attention.

23. It appears by several advices from Poonah that Ragnaut Row, the uncle of Mahderow, and formerly his rival for the government of the Mhorattah State, is appointed to the command of the Mhorattah army in Hindostan, and that he was upon his way to join it.

24. The Vizier has exhibited lately in the delivery of the fort of Chunar to the Company in terms very little differing from an actual cession the greatest inclination to preserve their confidence and attachment. The promise

which he has likewise made to the President to dismiss Monsieur Gentil from his service will be regarded as a proof of his sincerity when his predilection in favor of the man is considered, the estimation in which he holds his abilities, and the long and intimate connection which has subsisted between them. But though we have expressed our opinion of the Vizier's good faith on the credit of his promise, we must however add that it is yet unperformed, notwithstanding sometime has elapsed since he made it.

25. This injunction on our part was at this time the more expedient from the great encouragement emigrants of all denominations found through this man in the court of Sujah ul Dowlah, and the following circumstance will evince the necessity of exacting not only Monsieur Gentil's dismissal but that of every European in his service.

26. A person of the name of West, who had been an officer on the Coast and broke there for deserting to Hyder Ally, was sent round here some years since to be conveyed to Europe; but finding means to escape from his confinement, he proceeded to Faysabad, where he offered his service to the Nabob.

27. Receiving but little encouragement from him, he entered into the employ of Cossim Ally at Gowhad, from whence he transmitted the proposals, inserted in our proceedings, through the hands of a Monsieur Sanson<sup>4</sup> in the Vizier's service, containing a plausible plan for the extirpation of the English, had the Nabob either leisure or inclination to attempt its execution.

28. It is a subject of great concern to us that you will be necessitated to observe a difference in opinion between your Select Committee and the General which had its rise principally upon our countermanding his orders for the march of the brigade and upon some events which ensued in consequence.

29. It is entirely repugnant to our inclinations to enter into such discussions as may affect the harmony and good understanding to be preserved in the pursuit of measures calculated on either side for the general benefit, but where in the mode of conducting them we may deem it expedient to express our sentiments where we differ. We pass slightly over everything that have a tendency to renew or keep up our past disagreements, referring you for further informations to our proceedings, in which the subject has been treated at large.

30. In one point you may rest assured of our unanimous concurrence, that no object or consideration shall either tempt or compell us to pass the political line which we have laid down for our operations with the Vizier. We have told him, and repeated, that we will assist him with your force in the defence of his dominions against all invaders, but that we will not engage in any offensive war, nor suffer your army to be carried beyond the borders of his territory. And to this resolution we will steadily adhere.

31. The intelligence we have received from the Coast of the French force at the Islands will oblige us to remain upon our guard, and you may rest assured that every measure of defence shall be adopted that may enable us to frustrate any attempt upon your Presidency of Bengal.

32. Mr. Cartier's resignation occasioning a vacant seat at the Committee, and Mr. Reed's indisposition preventing his attendance, Mr. Dacres the next senior member of the Board was admitted as an occasional member.

33. We have the honor to forward you by this opportunity broken sett of our proceedings from the dispatch of the *Colebrooke* to this date, also the country correspondence to the 8th October, and duplicate of our address by the *Colebrooke*, and of a letter dated 18th September which was sent by a country ship to Madras to be forwarded from thence in the *Nottingham's* packet.

Fort William,  
the 10th November 1772.  
(Per *Lapwing*  
Duplicate per *Greenwich*)

We are with the greatest respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,  
Warren Hastings / Rt. Barker / Wm.  
Aldersey.

## 51

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1772

*Shipping news—work of the Board of Inspection—investment and trade regulations relating to silk investment; supply of bills to Bombay; supply of saltpetre and opium for Balambangan—appointment of writers—economy in expenditure on buildings and forts—progress in the new method of silk reeling—service matters: appreciation of the work of Rennell, Surveyor General—miscellaneous subjects such as charter party.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs.

1. We had the honor to address you by the *Nottingham* under date the 5th September, since when have arrived with us the *Prince of Wales* the 26th September, the *Nassau* the 6th October, and the *Duke of Grafton* the 12th, by which ships we have received your several commands dated the 15th January and the 25th March 1772.

2. The *Prince of Wales* having passed by Madrass in contradiction to your positive orders, we resolved upon dispatching her to Europe the first ship, and Captain Court received instructions to prepare for sailing within a month after his arrival. The motives which afterwards induced us to defer his departure are fully recorded on our Consultation of the 22nd October, and we trust you will hold us excusable for this deviation from your orders, the more especially as it will not make a difference of more than 5 or 6 weeks in the dispatch.

3. We have also to advise you of the safe arrival of the *Marquis of Rockingham* and *Hector* at Bombay, and we may shortly expect them here as that Presidency some time since informed us of their intended departure with a consignment of cotton.

4. We have resolved to dispatch the ships *Triton* and *Nassau* for Fort St. George before the 15th January 1773.

5. Accompanying you will be pleased to receive our Public and Secret Department Consultations from the 13th April to this day, together with duplicates of our last letter per *Nottingham* and the papers that went in that ship's packet.

6. In conformity to our resolutions of the 24th April last, we formed ourselves into a Board of Inspection,<sup>1</sup> and continued our meetings with little interruption till the departure of the President and Committee of Circuit. We proceeded to inspect the public offices, regulate them, reduce their expences, and had already marked out the ground of considerable saving to the Company. Our labours in so necessary a work shall be again renewed, and we hope this season to be able to transmit you an accurate account of their success.

7. Mr. Lambert, your senior servant in succession to Council on the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Cartier's resignation, having prayed for an indulgence to remain some time at Dacca for the settlement of his affairs, we consented to it. He left Dacca in July to assume his seat at the Board, but his infirm state of health detained him in the way, and he is still at Moorsheadabad waiting for a recovery, of which at present there are some hopes.

8. The army contract having expired last April, and Mr. George Graham, the then contractor, having given in the lowest proposals, we agreed to renew it with him; or rather to prolong his contract to the 1st January next, as we found from his representation, which carried conviction to us, that the beginning of the year was the properest season for the commencement and termination of that contract; and from hence forward it will be renewed at that season. We also published at that time an invitation to all persons to give in proposals by the 1st of September for that contract for the year 1773, at which time, Mr. Graham also being the only bidder and his terms appearing reasonable, we accepted of them.

9. On the 27th April we shut our treasury for the receipt of loans at interest, and since that no bonds have been granted but for money due for stores or other supplies by the contractors.

10. Your Secretary's drafts in favour of Captain Afflick have been paid. Your orders per *Lapwing* in relation to the damages incurred by this transaction shall meet with due obedience; and when we are entitled to do it, demands shall be made, or proper suits instituted, for the recovery of the sums paid against the estates of Messrs Cartier, Russell, Hare, and Jekyll, the members of Council who were so unfortunate as to incur your displeasure in this affair. You may depend upon it that neither favor nor affection shall sway with us in the execution of our duty, but we confide too much in the justice of your intentions to imagine that your orders implied anything illegal or unwarrantable; till the payment was made, we could have no grounds of action against these gentlemen, nor could we attack [attach?] their effects. In the meantime we called upon the agents for the Navy Donation to send in their accounts that the sums might be adjusted according to Captain Afflick's covenant. Their accounts are not yet come in.

11. Your orders of the 10th April 1771, were communicated to Mr. Lloyd, and in return he transmitted to us, besides his own solemn asseveration, the



deposition of Bandyram positively asserting that Mr. Alexander gave him assurance of having a *dustuck* for transporting his copper to Suzah Dowlah's dominions. We judge after this degree of proof that we cannot consistent with your orders require Mr. Lloyd to be responsible for the loss sustained. As Mr. Alexander has gone home to England, we have thought it necessary to advise you of these particulars that you may be enabled to make such application to him as you shall think proper, and beg leave to refer to our Consultations of the 18th May for the proceedings upon it.

12. The silk investment being so justly a principal object of your instructions, we have endeavoured to investigate it with that care and circumspection which it requires. We made it a principal matter of charge to the Committee of Circuit, and had their report upon it, of which we approved, and ordered it to be carried into execution. It appears both on their proceedings and our Consultations. The regulation which we have adopted, we hope may, in some degree, reduce the first cost of that investment, although without a severe restraint on the *chassars*, they will always expect a price for their commodity proportioned to their demands. At any rate they cannot fail being considerably eased by the encouragement now held out to them and by the means established to make them more independent of the *pykars*, their ancient oppressors; and this must ultimately redound to the benefit of the Company.

13. The claimants on the Restitution Fund have made application to us to know when the ballances due to them will be paid, and we have acquainted them that as soon as the fund which you have appropriated for that and other services shall enable us, and their claims come in course of preference, they will be paid off according to your instructions.

14. Agreeable to your permission, we propose to draw on you by the first ship to the extent of £100,000, and on the terms you prescribe to us, we have already adjusted the proportion to be allowed to the different claimants, and have had regard to their circumstances and ranks in the distribution as you direct.

15. The President and Council of Bombay have advised us that they shall have occasion this season for a remittance from us of 13 lacks. We have taken the proper measures for supplying them, and are in hopes of being able to compleat their order at a lower exchange than usual, having already obtained some good bills on Surat at Bombay at par, 100 *sicca* rupees for 100 Surat rupees.

16. We have furnished the Bombay Presidency with 8,000 bags of saltpetre, being the full amount of their demand for this season, and we shall endeavour to fulfill your orders respecting the whole quantity to be sent home from India.

17. The Presidency of Fort St. George having applyed to us for a supply of 850 chests of opium for the new settlement at Balambangan, we immediately issued directions to the Council of Patna to procure that quantity, and they have given us to understand that they will be able to procure the whole of the indent at a moderate price. Had we been earlier advised of their want of this article, we should have been enabled by issuing out advances at the commencement of the season to procure it on easier terms. The next year we shall be particularly attentive to this article of investment, and take care to make the necessary advances in due time,

18. Copies of the papers lost in the *Verelst* are now in hand, and we hope to have them compleated to be dispatched by the latter ships of the season.

19. Of the writers appointed this season the following are arrived, and have been stationed in the different offices.

Messrs Richard Henneway .	Persian Translator's Office
Wilkinson . . . . .	Council, Revenue Department
Chandler . . . . .	Cossimbuzar
Calvert . . . . .	E.W.H.K. Office
Larkins . . . . .	Secretary's Office
Halhed . . . . .	Persian Translator's Office
Taylor . . . . .	Secretary's Office
Kinlock . . . . .	Accomptant to the Revenue Department
Ranson . . . . .	Sub-Accomptant
Bathurst . . . . .	Export Warehouse
Harris . . . . .	Commissioner of Revenue
Holme . . . . .	[ . . . . ]
Broadhurst . . . . .	Accomptant's [Office]
Wildman . . . . .	Secretary's Office
Austin . . . . .	Accomptant's Office
Alexander . . . . .	Do
Cholmondly . . . . .	Revenue Department
Lindsay . . . . .	Accomptant to the Revenue Department
Swainstone . . . . .	Secretary's Office
Duncanson . . . . .	Revenue Department
Gosling . . . . .	Secretary's Office

20. Immediately on the receipt of your commands by the *Grafton* for limiting the expences of buildings and fortifications, we issued orders for stopping all undertakings of that sort throughout the province till such time as by obtaining proper returns we should be able to proportion the sum according to the exigencies of the several services. Prior to this we had, from our ideas of what was fit and consonant to the spirit of your general directions, curtailed the plans of several works which were carrying on, particularly that of the cantonments of Berampoor, which to our extreme concern we find has been drawn out to a sum greatly exceeding what was originally intended.

21. The erections for the new filature, we are sorry to find, both at Cossimbazar and Commercolly, have been constructed at an expence which the business, with all the improvement it promises, is not suited to bear. We have however, taken measures to prevent such extravagant undertakings in future, and in general we beg you may confide in the earnest endeavours of your present administration for retrenching every superfluous branch of expence, and establishing a general system of oeconomy in your affairs, as well as for discouraging the extravagance of individuals in your service, on which you so justly animadvert.

22. In mentioning the filature we are led to observe on that new method of managing the silk which you have been so solicitous to introduce that in our opinion it must in time be crowned with success from the evident superio-

rity that it carries along with it, and the docility of the natives in anything to which they are properly trained; but we are conscious that it must be supported by a less expensive apparatus, and a more simple mode, before it can become general, and before it can be undertaken by private hands, which alone can give it the full and desirable effect for the grounds of your investment.

23. In the short letter by the *Nottingham* it was not thought material to take notice of a fire which happened in the city of Patna this spring. The devastation was wide, but attended with little real loss to the inhabitants; we mention it only on account of the circumstance of the buildings which served as Company's warehouses being burnt down. The Council of Patna have proposed building a new range, and we only will agree to it upon a fixt estimate upon the most frugal plan.

24. Captain F. Hissman, as it will appear at length in our proceedings, having represented to us the right he had to rank superior to that he enjoyed in the service, and having stated his case at large, we took it into the most serious and impartial consideration, and after consulting with the Committee of Circuit, we joined opinion that he had fully established his right, but restrained by your orders which limits the number of field officers, we could only reinstate him in his rank with the nominal title of Major, without the pay or allowance, till such time as vacancies should occur to bring him within the limited establishments, or your further pleasure be known.

25. Our Surveyor General (Captain Rennell<sup>2</sup>) has prepared for your satisfaction compleat draughts of all his surveys. A number goes in this packet. The surveys will speak for themselves, but we cannot neglect this opportunity of giving our testimony in favour of the assiduity, zeal, and intelligence which Captain Rennell has always discovered in the execution of his duty.

26. Mr. John Stewart, our present Secretary, succeeded to the office according to your appointment on the removal of Mr. Wynne, who was nominated in August last to the Collector of Mahomedshy. Mr. Stewart has been employed ever since the preceding May as Secretary to the Committee of Circuit in virtue of your recommendation for the employing him previous to his succeeding to the present office, whenever we thought his services could be of use.

27. We observe your directions respecting your Auditor's remarks. Those which were conveyed to us by the *Grafton* were immediately sent in to our Sub-Accountant who is preparing the necessary answers, and they will be sent by the annual ship in a separate number in the packet as you direct.

28. Such covenants as have been executed by the civil and military servants now attend you agreeably to the list in the packet. The residue, which has been delayed either by the absence of the servants or the remoteness of their situation, will be forwarded to you as they are received.

29. In compliance with your orders we have appointed an additional member to the Council at Patna.

30. In consequence of your orders contained in the 12 paragraph of your letters per *Grafton*<sup>3</sup> we gave directions for drawing out the accounts of remains

[of] ordnance as therein mentioned, and now enclose them numbers in the packet, together with an indent for the present year.

31. In our letter of the 5th September we acquainted you with the unfortunate loss of the *Duke of Albany* upon Long-Sand as she was entering the river on the 26th of July last, the circumstance of which will fully appear on the proceedings of the committee of enquiry upon Mr. Evers, the Pilot, which made a number in the packet. It is incumbent on us in justice to Captain Stewart to remark that he was not in the least to blame upon that occasion; on the contrary that he exerted his utmost for the preservation of the ship, although it was with difficulty the lives of the people and packet could be saved. In consideration therefore of the severe loss and disappointment Captain Stewart has sustained by this unhappy accident and of his general good character, we beg leave to recommend him to your attention and favor.

32. Mr. Holme, who had incurred our just censure for his contumacious behaviour and was dismissed in consequence from his office of Collector of the Calcutta pergunnahs, has since testified his sincere sorrow for the offence he gave, and engaged himself to a more circumspect conduct in future. We, therefore, wish his former misbehaviour may be forgotten, and that it may leave no unfavorable impression with you as to your future favor.

33. At the earnest solicitation of Mr. R. Johnson, Surgeon of the *Lapwing*, we have permitted him to quit the snow, and have appointed Mr. Greig, the Surgeon's Mate of the *Duke of Albany*, to officiate in his room after having first being reported by our Chief Surgeon duly qualified for the station. We have ordered Captain Gardiner to discharge the amount of Mr. Johnson's balance of wages due to him since he quitted England.

34. We have advanced Captain Gardiner since his arrival, at different times, the amount of 8,000 current rupees, on account of the disbursements expended on the snow *Lapwing* by the Master Attendant, which goes a number in the packet.

35. Mrs. Anne Popple, the widow of an officer who died on the Coast, applied to us for a certificate to entitle her to a share of the bounty; but as her husband did not belong to this establishment, we could not comply with her request, but have at her desire granted her a passage on board the *Lapwing*.

36. We have also permitted Captain John Stewart, late Commander of the *Albany*, to proceed to Europe by this conveyance.

37. General Sir Robert Barker, before his return to the Presidency, having transmitted to us a letter addressed to you which came too late to go by the *Nottingham*, we now send the number in the packet.

38. We have permitted to be shipped on board the *Lapwing* two bulses of diamonds valued at 16,334-5-3, consigned by General Sir Rt. Barker.

39. The balance in our treasury this day is rupees 1,97,304-2, in the *Dewanee* treasury 370,000, and in cash 4,560-15-10.



40. We have granted by this vessell the following setts of certificates.

*Register of Certificates per Lapwing Packet, Captain H.  
Gardiner, Commander*

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	
1 sett dated the 9th of October 1772, to William Robertson, Second Officer of the ship <i>Greenwich</i> , Captain Robert Carr, Commander.	Himself	2,597-6-0
1 sett dated the 9th October 1772, to Godfrey Schooley, Purser of the ship <i>Greenwich</i> , Captain Robert Carr, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-0
1 sett dated the 9th October 1772, to William Brown, Second Officer of the ship <i>Triton</i> , Captain William Elphinstone, Commander.	Himself	2,597-6-0
1 sett dated the 9th October 1772, to Captain William Elphinstone, Commander of the ship <i>Triton</i> .	Himself	36,363-10-0
1 sett dated the 21st October 1772, to James Bailie, Surgeon of the ship <i>Triton</i> , Captain William Elphinstone, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-0
1 sett dated the 21st of October 1772, to Alexander Macneal, Purser of the ship <i>Triton</i> , Captain Wm. Elphinstone, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-0
1 sett dated the 21st October 1772, to John Haig, Fifth Mate of the ship <i>Triton</i> , Captain William Elphinstone, Commander.	Himself	649-5-0
1 sett dated the 4th November 1772, to Captain Jonathan Court, Commander of the ship <i>Prince of Wales</i> .	Himself	21,000-0-0
1 sett dated the 9th November 1772, to John Rate, Third Officer of the ship <i>Triton</i> . Captain Willm. Elphinstone, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-0
1 sett dated the 9th November 1772, to John Hope Bowers, First Officer of the ship <i>Nassau</i> , Captain Arthur Gore, Commander.	Himself	3,246-12-0
1 sett dated the 9th November 1772, to John Wood, Third Officer of the ship <i>Nassau</i> , Captain Arthur Gore, Commander.	Himself	1,948-1-0
1 sett dated the 9th November 1772, to Nicholas Jackson, Second Officer of the ship <i>Nassau</i> , Captain Arthur Gore, Commander.	Himself	2,597-6-0
	Current rupees	78,792-2-0

Fort William,  
10 November 1772.  
(Per *Lapwing*)

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1772

(FROM WARREN HASTINGS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL)

*Reasons for delay in instituting enquiry into the conduct of Riza Khan and Shitab Rai.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorables Sirs,

1. In my last<sup>1</sup> a duplicate of which accompanies this, I promised to enter upon the enquiries which you had been pleased to entrust to me in your commands of the 18th December 1771, after my return to the Presidency. The unavoidable arrears of public business occasioned by the absence of a major part of your Council, and the multitude of arrangements which depended on the measures recommended by the Committee of Circuit which it has been my especial duty to attend to, have hitherto put it out of my power to execute your commands upon this subject, which, with the enquiries into the conduct of Mahmud Rizza Cawn and Rajah Shitab Roy, wait only for leisure from more urgent and important affairs.

Inland trade in salt &c. by Council &c. Monopoly of rice, monopoly of salt &c. by Supervisors. Monopoly of rice by Supervisor of Rungpore in '70 and '71.

I have the honor to be.

Honorables Sirs,

Your most obedient and most faithful servant,

Warren Hastings.

Fort William,  
10th November 1772.  
(Per *Lapwing*)

## SECRET LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1772

*Captain Harper recalled from the Vazir's Court—request by Major Morrison for monetary help on behalf of Shah Alam—inquiry into the conduct of Riza Khan and Shitab Rai suspended—reduction in Nawab's establishment—Munni Begam's appointment as Regent and her proposal for a new treaty—Raja Rajballabh employed in Rai-ayan's office—continuance of Mr. Middleton as*

*Resident at Murshidabad—altercations with the French—friendly relations with the Danes.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

We addressed you last from this Department by the *Nottingham* in a short letter informing you of the hostile preparations of the Marattas with our conjectures on the probable objects of their operations and signifying to you the line which independent of contingencies we had laid down for ourselves in relation to these powerful and enterprizing neighbours. The communication which the President and Select Committee have made to us of their consulta-

16th April.

tions on this subject has met with our approbation, to these we refer. We only in this beg leave to assure you that your administration here adopt with sincerity and satisfaction the plan which you have prescribed to us for our political transactions with the country powers and we flatter ourselves it would not be displeasing to you to find that before your orders could reach us we had acted in so much conformity to your sentiments. The security and tranquility of the provinces shall be the ultimate end of all our negotiations and you may trust that we are too well aware of the ruinous tendency of all schemes of conquest ever to adopt them or even to depart from the absolute [need?] of self defence unless impelled to it by the m[ost] obvious necessity and the immediate exigency of circumstance. How far the ambitious temper of the Vizir may involve him in difficulties from which it may require our exertions to extricate him, we cannot yet within any degree of cert[ainty] foretell. In the mean time you will observe we have pertinaciously refused to engage ourselves farther with him than in the passive defence of his dominions and in affording him that countena[nce] and support at his formal requisition which by the nature of our connections and faith of subsisting treaties we conceive ourselves bound to bestow. Select Committee. The letter and proceedings of the Select Committee supply you with every necessary information on this head.

2. In the course of the President's correspo[ndence] with Suja Dowla he received several letters from the Prince which he laid before us reclaiming in a [tone?] of unusual warmth the continuance of Captain [Harper] as our Minister or Agent at his Court. So in[sistent] and unprecedented a demand did not fail to attract our particular notice. We reflected that Captain Harper had never been invested with any public character at his Court, that his residence there had been merely casual in the regular roll of his military service, although the two last Presidents had occasionally availed themselves of his situation and abilities in their communications with the Vizir. But that the idea of fixing him there in the most important civil capacity independent of his military duty, never was entertained by the Board and to grant it at this time to the so earnest and friendly request of the very man whose opinions his duty would often lead him to contradict and whose intrigues in no friendly manner, he would be often obliged to counteract, would have been not only a solicism in politiks unworthy of our councils but also would have, by admitting the nomination of the Vizir,

precluded your Government from employing such other means of communication as they might have thought more eligible or might have diminished the weight of that direct correspondence with him through your President which you have so judiciously prescribed for the better support of the dignity and executive vigour of your government. We therefore judged it highly incumbent on us to deny this indulgence to the Vizir and to require Captain Harper's attendance on his military duty at the head of his battalion which was this year to be removed from Fyzaba[d] by the same routine of service by which it was sent thither.

3. In this however your Council [is] not unanimous as you will be well informed from our Consultations. To these and the different minutes on the subject we refer you. Your last approbation of Captain Harper's services and the disting[uished] manner in which you were pleased to testify it, no doubt operated strongly for the appointment the Vizir solicited from him and would have abso[lutely] swayed our determination had we conceived your expressions conveyed any thing further [?] your approval of his past services than a gen[eral] recommendation of his abilities to our not[ice] wherever they can be properly employed, with[out?] meaning either to fix him altogether in a [new?] line or to encroach on that power which you have for so good purposes reserved for the [President?] as the executive Minister of your Council. We entertain a just sense of Captain Harper's merits and endowments and will not fail to av[ail] ourselves of them when a fit occasion offer[s]. We hope he will furnish us with some bett[er] opportunity of marking to the world that he owes our favor more to our thorough confidence in himself than to the personal friendship and intercession of the Vizir. How far we have relaxed from our first resolution in mere tenderness to the feelings of Suja Dowla's mind, agitated at this time with unusual anxiety, our Consultation which approves of that of the Select Committee will shew.

4. Although in recalling Captain Harper from the Court of the Vizir we have no intermediate channel of correspondence between him and the President, we have agreed that upon urgent occasion it may be necessary to depute some person from your government here in direct commission to the Vizir. There seems however no pressing call for this measure and its execution will be determined by what may hereafter occur.

5. It had been proposed as you will find on our Consultations of the 29th August to appoint a Chief of Patna from the members of your Council here, to be also charged with the intermediate communication with Suja Dowla. The distance of that province, the charge and superintendence of it's revenue, justice and trade together with the communication proposed with the Vizir formed an object which seemed to dema[nd] a chief of rank and experience to direct, and it [...] the consideration of the Board. However after de[liber]ation [we] had upon it the proposal was rejected for the reasons then assigned to which also we beg leave to refer.

6. We have had no exact advices communicated to us of late of the proceedings [of] Shaw Alum or of his manœuvres in conjunct[ion] with his new allies. Till we have better assurances of his friendly intentions towards us and of the justness and propriety of his views we cannot think ourselves either



bound in hon[our] or justifiable towards you in the support of the [?]. In the mean time we regard his motions as inconsequential to cause either jealousy to us or [?]. The probable issue of his rash enterprize will be after having been led through all India the ridicu[lous] pageant of the Marattah power, to throw him once more friendless and forlorn into your arm[s] for protection and support, the only event in [our] opinion which is capable of giving trouble to [us] in regard to him.

7. His scheme has however given [rise] to one circumstance of the greatest uneasiness [and] disgust. Major Morrison, an officer in your service who had obtained leave from us to return to Europe over land has taken upon him to engage himself in the service of the King and in a letter recorded on our proceedings of the 23rd June transmits a draft on us from his new master for four laacks of rupees, with a scheme for raising, arming and disciplining a considerable body of troops for his service to be led by officers drawn from your army, and in the end designs to stretch out his protection to us in all the stile of a powerful eastern chief. How repugnant this conduct is to all the duties of a loyal subject, a good citizen and a faithful servant is too obvious for us particularly to point out, neither will we presume to suggest to your wisdom the steps proper to be taken should Major Morrison as he threatens carry home his projects and complaints to be laid at His Majesty's feet, your representation to the ministry of the affair, according to the lights we transmit you, will undoubtedly have it's just effect.

8. The enquiry into the conduct of the Nabob Mahomed Reza Cawn and of Raja Shitabroy have necessarily been suspended during the absence of the President on the more important and interesting business of the settlement and other objects with which the Committee of Circuit were charged. In the mean time no prepara[tory] steps have been neglected for bringing matters to [the?] issue you expect. We have sought for information [of] every justifiable method wherever there was a probabi[lity] of obtaining it, and have prosecuted our researches w[ith] the lights we received served to shew the way. We entertain no doubts of fixing on the former suffi[cient] facts to justify your dismissal and censure of him [though] our duty obliges us to intimate our doubts of being [unable] to ascertain some of the charges against him, in particular that of his dealings in the time of the fami[ne] and of his speculation in the management of the [?] revenue. The first must by the nature of it be vag[ue] and unprecise and even the transactions themselves if pr[oved] are susceptible of a specious colouring which it [may] be difficult to remove, and the last is so involv[ed] in the intricacies of voluminous household acc[ounts] and obscured by the Bengal character and language that [they] promise very little success in the unravelling [?]. All we can say is that as soon as leisure and con[venience] will permit us to assume these enquiries (which we flatter ourselves will be immediately after the dis[patch] of these ships) we will prosecute them with [un]remitting diligence and zeal and we hope to some eff[ect].

9. It was in the latter end of Septem[ber] that the President returned from the Committ[ee] of Circuit. Every thing was finished at Moorshedabad and the Committee proceeded to Dacca in prosecution of the general business of the settlements.

10. Our letter from the Department of Revenue and the actual proceedings of the Committee transmitted by this packet will furnish you with ample

and we trust satisfactory details on this subject. It remains for us here to take notice of the less direct objects of their commission, though not less consequential or difficult in the arrangement.

11. The reduction of the Nabob's stipend and the new arrangement of his household in consequence was a measure equally difficult and invidious in execution but besides being indispensable from your orders, our sense of its wisdom and propriety made it [to] be undertaken without delay or regret. To bring the whole of the expences of the *Nizamut* within the pale of the 16 lacks it was necessary to begin with reforming the useless servants of the Court and retrenching the idle parade of elephants, menageries etc., which loaded the civil list. This cost little regret in performing, but the President who took upon him the chief share in this business acknowledges he suffered considerably in his feelings when he came to touch on the pension list. Some hundreds of persons of the ancient nobility of the country, excluded under our government from almost all employments, civil [and] military had ever since the revolution depen[ded] on the bounty of the Nabob and near 10 lacks bestowed that way. It is not that the distri[bution] was always made with judgement or impari[ality] and much room was left for a reform, but wh[en] the question was to cut off entirely the greater part, it could not fail to be accompanied with circumstances of real distress. The President [?] that even with some of the highest rank he cou[ld] not avoid discovering under all the pride of east[ern] manners, the manifest marks of penury and wa[nt]. There was however no room left for hesitation. To confine the Nabob's expences within the lim[ited] sum it was necessary that pensions should [be?] set aside. It was done and every possible regard had to equity and the pretensions of individuals settling those which were allowed to remain.

12. The dependants of the late *Nai[b] Soubah* were without exception cut off the li[st] and the remainder of the reduction chiefly confined to those who were either of less pretenions or more independence of fortune than the old p[en]sioners. In short the whole establishment are [sic] adjusted to the Nabob's new income, beyond which the Begam was given to understand she must not go. The general state of it was intended to be sent but as it may well be imagined the minute household, accounts of 32 lacks could not be examined by the proper officers in a few days. The President's departure pressed: they promised to send it after him; it is not yet come; but we hope to transmit it by one of the latter ships.

13. We have been so full on the subject of Raja Goordass in the Consultations and in what has been already written, that we beg leave to refer you to them and only add here that we have hitherto every reason to applaud our choice. He conducts himself in his new ministry both to our satisfaction and that of the Begam who is at the head of the Nabob's house.

6th August.

14. We also acquainted you with our entire approval of the Committee of Circuits appointment of Munnee Begam. We have every thing to expect from her management in confirming the plans of your administration and forwarding the Company's views. She displays great prudence in her conduct and carries herself with a dignity becoming the post she holds. We can say little of the Nabob himself, he seems to betray a mind more neglected than really deficient at the botto[m]. How far the care of Munny Begam may be able to

bring him back to himself must be seen in future. In the meantime the President with her approbation has driven from his presence some of the chief minions of his favour and instruments of his irregular pleasures.

15. We are happy in having adopted before your sentiments in respect to Raja Rajebullub, communicated to us per the *Grafton*. The Committee when at Cossimbuzar had made inquiry into his circumstan[ces] and found his income inadequate to his expences and that [...] he had to maintain. The removal of the *khalsa* [...] have brought a fresh distress upon him. In this situation and finding him a young man of honor[able] sentiments with a very competent share of parts, they determined to employ him in the office of *Roy-roy[an]* then to be newly established. We approved and appoi[n]ted him. He is now here with the *khalsa* and by his application to business promises to be a useful servant of the Company. We have no doubt of your approving of this appointment which so reconciles your antient regard to the family and the interest of your government here.

16. We think it necessary to say some [thing] on another appointment of the Committee of Circuit, we mean that of Mr. Middleton. As it was necessary to have a Resident still at the Durbar, we could not without lessening the dignity of the Country Government in the eyes of the world appoint any junior servant to that trust nor would it have been consistent with the privacy and intimate communication of the political measures of administration which such a station requires. Mr. Middleton was therefore naturally continued there, and being by this necessarily fixed to the City with little occupation, it became a matter of convenience for ourselves as well as of propriety to him to give him the collection of the district (which is included under the name of Rajeshahy) and the chiefship of Cossimbuzar, the business of which is so interwoven with that of the revenue and with the police and justice of the City, that no separation could be made without apprehending much confusion. These were the grounds on which we approved of the appointments in question.

17. By our proceedings you will find that we anticipated your desire in the reduction of the Mogul Cavalry. The reasons which the General opposed to our resolution did not prevail with us to alter it. Though  
 17th August. they equally oppose your opinion we are confident you will giv[e] them the same attentive hearing which we thought it our duty to do, considering from whence they came. Our remarks we submit with them to your judgement and decision. W[hat] remains to be done in relation to them and also to the alteration in the sepoy establishment in conseq[ue]nce of your last orders will be duly concerted and such measures taken in conjunction with the General the circumstanc[e] of the country and the other exigencies of your service will admit.

18. Your orders touching the attention which we ought to pay to the motions of the Fren[ch] in this country are punctually complied with. There seems at present nothing to be apprehended from the power and little from their rivalship in trade. We have certain intelligence of the return of their chief force from the Mauritiass, of which you must be ascertained before this time. Our proceedings will furnish you with instances of the spirit of chic[ane?] and dispute with regard to us which exists at present in their government. We are persuaded, knowing t[he] disposition of Mr. Chevalier and the kind of



abilities [he] possesses that he proceeds more on system than from any real feelings on the occasions of his complaints. He means to keep up continual subj[ect] of dispute with us that they may be made use of whenever a fair occasion shall present itself. He endeavors to draw us by long letters artfully written but full of warm and even indecent expressions to a constant correspondence of acrimony, of which they might take advantage. We have however endeavored to keep up that temper which is requisite in public affairs and to answer their provoking language only by a firm adherence to our rights knowing that we have it in our power to maintain them. We have absolutely refused to admit their claim of seizing their own debtors and imprisoning them at their discretion. We have insisted that none of their vessels shall come to, under the guns of any of our fortifications on the river without express permission and have issued orders to support our right by force. In this we are confident of your approbation, as it is entirely consistent with the law of nations and the invariable practice (we believe) in every European state. Their complaint about the inundation at Chandernagore in which they attack us and our Chief Engineer with great asperity of language turned out, as you will perceive

22nd October. by the proceedings, unjust and false. It appears clearly by the report of the Surveyor General that it was not occasioned by the demolition of their ditch. For the various other subjects of their altercations with us we refer to the Consultations sent.

19. , With the Dutch we have had the most friendly intercourse of late and we doubt not of maintaining the same in time to come.

20. The Danes have met from us every atten[tion?] in our power. We observe your recommendation of them by the *Grafton* and will undoubtedly pay that obedience which your orders always should carry and which we hope our conduct will evince to be always accompan[ied] with the most sincere inclination to conform to the spirit with which they were dictated. Their Ch[ief] and Council preferred a complaint to us last spr[ing] of an invasion of their property in the lands[?] Serhampore by the banyan of the French Comp[any]. We were determined to see impartial justice but at the same time to testify our particular attention to what they recommended to us, we thought proper that one of the Company's serva[nts] should be present at the survey and enquiry[enquir- ed?] into the dispute. Mr. George Bogle was sent on this business and his report was so clea[rly] in favor of the Danes that we did not hesitat[e] to pronounce for them. You will find a letter return from their Chief and Council on our Con[sulta]tions written in good English and conceived in t[he] most grateful and respectful terms. The proceedings containing all the papers relative to this transaction forms a separate section and goes a number in the packet.

21. The Munny Begam having requested a new treaty to be entered into between the Nabob and the Company and having sent in the heads of the propositions on his part (as they are to be found on the proceedings of the Committee of Circuit of date the 7th September) we deliberated duly upon it and requested our President to convey the sentiments of the Board to her as you will find them expressed in his letter recorded on our Consultations of the 26th ultimo. You will there see that we deem the sanction of your authority necessary in so solemn an act of Government, and that we do not think ourselves entitled to use your name to lasting obligations of which you might not approve unless where the urgency of the occasion for the immediate safety of your



settlement or acquisitions obliged us to take such a power upon us, and hope this deference to your authority will be agreeable to you and as in this case nothing can be lost by the delay, your orders will come in time enough for the satisfaction of the Begam and of whatever nature they are, they shall be executed with chearfulness and punctuality.

22. Such are the advices which in the Department by the opportunity of the *Lapwing* are necessary to be communicated to you. We will write you fully on all other matters of reference to your orders which yet remain to be noticed as they occur in our proceedings and occasions offer of transmitting them. In the meantime assuring you of our steadfast zeal and attention to your service.

We remain with respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servant[s],  
Warren Hastings / Rt. Bark[er] / W.  
Alders[ey] / Thomas La[ne] / Richd.  
Barw[ell] / James Ha[rris] / H. Goodwi[n].

Fort William  
the 10th November 1772.  
(Per *Auriol*)

54

## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 3 DECEMBER 1772

[*Revenue Department*]

*Land revenue settlement—all custom duties suspended to facilitate transportation of grain—representation from William Lushington regarding the construction of office and other buildings—disposal of salt farms—increased land revenue from Dacca.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had the honour of addressing you last from this Department by the *Lapwing* packet under date the 3rd ultimo, duplicate of which letter we now transmit, together with such papers and accounts as are therein referred to.

2. As we enlarged so fully in the above letter on the state of your revenue and on the st[eps] we had taken in the prosecution of your orders for forming a settlement of these provinces on a permanent and uniform system, we shall confine ourselves in this address to such matters as have occurred in the short interval of time since the dispatch of the *Lapwing*.

3. In our proceedings of the 30th October transmitted by the last ship, we began upon the settlement of the district of Midnapore and Iella[bad]

30 October. [Jellasore?] upon this occasion, for the reasons entered at

la[rge] on the Consultation of the above date, we were induced to continue the lands in the possession of the hereditary zemindars and talookdars, by whom the whole of these districts are held, on general principle,

which you will find repea[ted] in various parts of our records, that we deem [it] equally just and politic to continue the lan[dlords] in the possession of their lands, whenever it can [be] done with safety to the revenue, and because proposals which were made for the farms by others, fell greatly short of the amount which the zemindars themselves offered to pay after the deductions for these allowances.

4. For the particulars of this settlement we beg leave to refer you to our proceedings of the 4th ultimo, by which you will observe there will be an  
 4 November. actual increase on the revenue roll at the end of the fifth year, of one lac[k] and a half of rupees, and that the total advantage accruing to your revenue during the five years lease, amounts to rupees five lacks and seventy thousand.

5. As the *haldarree* and *bazee jum[m]ah* have been abolished the zemindars and talookdars gave in a claim for a deduction on account of the duties, which were formerly collected by these impositions and which will now cease to form a part of their revenue, amounting to 58,976 rupees. This amount greatly exceeding the proportion of the same taxes in the other districts, we have given orders for an exact scrutiny to be made by the Collector into the amount actually received under these denominations, for the last five years, and when this is performed, we shall be able to forward a compleat statement of the settlement. In the meantime you will be sufficiently able to form a general idea of it from the abstract entered in our proceedings.

6. We are much concerned to acquaint you, that we are under some apprehensions lest the revenue may suffer in different parts of the provinces, from the remarkable plenty and cheapness of all kinds of grain, occasioned by an uncommon favourable season for the harv[est]. For your more particular information in th[ese] points, we beg leave to refer you to the extract of the several letters from the Collectors, which go a number in the packet. It may seem ra[ther] a paradox that a circumstance of this kind [shall] effect the revenue more materially than the famine which happened two years ago; to account for which, we take the liberty to point out to you the reasons given in the 6th and 7th paragraph of our last letter, and we must farther observe that it appears most probable, although we cannot affirm it to have been the case, th[at] mortality was mostly among the workmen, manufacturers and people employed on the rivers, who were without the same means of laying by stores of grain, as the husband[men], so that the number of consumers who suffered from this calamity was greater in propor[tion] than that of the cultivators of grain. The increase lately made in the price of manufacture and present stagnation in the sale and currency of every kind of grain, are strong arguments of the justness of this remark. We may add as another probable cause, the drains which these provinces have suffered in the current specie, by the exportation of it to China, Bombay and Fort St. George, besides the payment of ready money for the King's stipend and the other remittances made to the Western provinces.

7. In order to prevent the loss and bad consequences which the collections were like to suffer from the produce of the ground thus remaining  
 17 November. unsold, we have taken every measure in our power to facilitate the transportation of grain from the inland parts of the country: we have suspended all duties heretofore levied at the different

interior custom houses, have repeated our orders to the collectors, to remove every impediment to a free circulation, and we have taken off all duties on grain shipped outwards as an encouragement to the exportation of it.

8. As a further expedient, we have sent orders to our Collector of Dinagepoor, in whose districts the bad effects of the cheapness of grain is particularly felt, to receive from the farmer grain at the current price, in lieu of money, fo[r] their rents, and to build *golaks* for the receipt of it on the public account. But this is an experiment, we by no means propose to mak[e] general, unless we find it turn out more succ[essful] than our present idea of it suggests to us—to adopt it on this occasion reluctantly, and th[rough] necessity alone.

9. We have received a representation from Mr. William Lushington, our Collector of Houghly and Idgellee, regarding a brick hou[se] and other offices, which he has built at Hough[ly] for his habitation, and  
20 November. the conducting the business of his extensive department, and requesting to be allowed the actual disbursement which he has made on this account, so that the house might thereby become your prope[rty]. As your orders are so positive in prohibiting all charges for an increase of buildings, we would not take upon ourselves to admit of Mr. Lushington's claim any farther than granting him an interest note on this condit[ion] "that it should remain in force if the purchase was approved by you, but if otherwise, it is to be cancelled, and of no effect." That you may form a distinct idea of the nature of these buildings and Mr. Lushington's motives for erecting them, we have transmitted a copy of his letter on the subject, and a particular account of the disbursements, numbers in this packet. We beg leave to submit them to your decision, and to be favored with your orders in consequence. Even this we consider as an indulgence, which we should not have allowed him, after these restrictions which your commands have laid on us in this respect, had not all the Collectors been formerly permitted to erect houses for their habitation.

10. The general plan which we have adopted for the disposal of the salt farms, you will find in the proceedings of the 7th October. It was deter-  
Com: Revue 14 November. mined that the salt made by the farmer, should be deli-  
7 October. vered to the Company at a certain rate, and afterwards resold to the merchants, and the duties included in the price of the salt. By this regulation the dut[ies] are effectually secured, and the Company will be freed from the embarrassment of perplex[ing] and intricate accounts, and future demand for old ballances.

11. Agreeably to the above plan, the following salt farms have been let  
14 November. for the term of five years.  
20 November. 24 Pergunnas Calcutta from 4,50,000 to 5,50,000 mau[nds]  
at 70 Arcot rupees, per 100  
[maunds]  
20 October. Burdwan . . . . . 2,66,660 at 64-9 *sicca* rupees per  
100[maunds]  
17 November. Dacca . . . . . 4,80,001 at different price[s]  
Com Con: 4 November.  
Com Revenue 7 September. Jessore . . . . . 2,25,000 at 75-10 *sicca* rupees  
per % m[aunds]

12. The farmers of Houghly in whose land the salt is made, have agreed for the delivery of the whole quantity, but as the price is no[t] yet fixed, and some few of the other salt lan[ds] remain still to be settled, as well as the merch[ants] claim for old ballances, we are obliged to def[er] for the present, sending a compleat state of the branch of your revenue.

13. Although the proceedings of our Committee of Circuit employed in compleating the settlements of the remaining districts in Bengal are not comprised within the compass of this packet, yet we cannot forbear the pleasure we have in acquainting you that we have just received advices from them that they have concluded the farms of the Dacca districts on the following advantageous terms:—*Jumma* or rent roll of 1178 or 1771 after deduction made by the public general regulations for the abolition of taxes Rs. 30,60,280-4-14-1.

			<i>Jumma or rent roll</i>	<i>Increase</i>
1179 or 1772.	1st yr.	33,97,432-	4- 4-2	3,33,151-15- 1[?]
1180 or 1773.	2nd yr.	36,50,955-	3-12	5,90,674-14-17
1181 or 1774.	3rd yr.	36,70,700-	12- 2	6,10,420- 7- 7
1182 or 1775.	4th yr.	36,72,785-	12- 2	6,12,505- 7- 7
1183 or 1776.	5th yr.	36,71,828-	4- 2	6,13,547-15- 7

14. By this you will please to observe that there will be an actual increase on the rent roll of rupees 6,13,547-15-7-3, at the end of the fif[th] year, and that the gross amount of the profit on the five years lease will be rupees 27,64,300-12-11, exclusive of which, there arises in realizing the nett revenue a saving of rupees 60,768-9, pr. annum from the reduction of sundry charges conformably to our general establishment. Upon the whole therefore the advantage accruing to the Company at the expiration of the present settlement of the Dacca districts, from increase of revenue, and saving of charges, will amount to rupees thirty laaks, sixty eight thousand, one hundre[d] and forty three, nine annas and eleven gun[dées] and as the gentlemen of the Committee of Cir[cuit] inform us, that the lands they have thus fa[rmed] out, appear to them in general, to be in a st[ate] of cultivation and plenty, and that the secur[ities] of the zemindars and farmers are persons of [great] responsibility, we flatter ourselves that a dili[gent] and regular attention on the part of our Collec[tors] will sufficiently ensure the discharge of these engagements.

15. On this occasion, we should not be doing justice to the gentlemen of the Committee if we did not express our utmost satisfaction at the zeal and attention they have shewn to your interests, in the prosecution of their resear[ch] to which we must in a great measure attribu[te] the good success they have met with, in form[ing] the Dacca settlement on so secure a foundation and with such a considerable addition to your revenue.

16. We have postponed putting in execution your orders with respect to remov[ing] the several Collectors of the revenues, who have been two years in that station, as this change in the middle of a year, would be attended with great perplexity in the adjustment of the [accounts] and many other inconve-



niences. We shall however pay strict obedience to your command on this point, at the expiration of the present Bengal year.

We are with great respect,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most faithfull humble  
servants,

Fort William  
the 3rd December 1772.  
(Per *Greenwich*)

Warren Hastings/Rt. Barker/W. Alder-  
sey / Thomas Lane / Rich. Barwell /  
James Harris.

55

## SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1772

*Dissensions among the Marathas—Mahadji Sindia's successes over the Jats—revolt of Hafiz Rahmat Khan's son against his father and the weakness of the Rohillas—First Brigade sent to Oudh at the Vazir's request.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since our last address nothing material has happened to occasion any contrariety in the opinion we then gave you, that the Mhorattahs would not have sufficient leisure to hazard a war with either the Company or their ally during the present season for military operations.

2. Our last advices represent their chiefs as having espoused different interests respecting the distribution of Zabitah Cawn's country; Bysagee and Tokogee have broke up their encampment at Coal, and proceeded towards Delhy, in order to intimidate the King into a compliance with their demands in favor of the Rhohillah, while His Majesty, influenced by Syndeah, seems determined to oppose all their measures, and will not by any means consent to their interfering in the settlements of the Rhohillah affairs without their having previously obtained the concurrence of Mahde Row, representing at the same time that the Vizier ought to be considered as the ostensible person in the pursuit of and final conclusion of these negociations. The King is extremely irritated at the march of these chiefs, and has collected his troops into a body to oppose them, should they use other means than entreaty in behalf of Zabitah Cawn.

3. Syndeah is pursuing his successes against the Jauts who have suffered a very severe blow in the defection of a Mr. Madox, an active officer in their service, but formerly a deserter from the English army, who has carried over a large party to the side of His Majesty, notwithstanding he was opposed by a very considerable force.

4. Inait-ulla-Cawn, the son of Hafez Rhamet, on pretence of having been refused the command of a body of 3,000 men with an adequate division of territory, has revolted against him. The father and son have both taken the field, and are actually in arms against each other.

5. This circumstance, with the uncertain situation of Zabith Cawn, by whom the councils of the other Rhohillah chiefs are directed, seems to exclude them from bearing part in any transactions for or against our ally, whose possessions, if we may decide from present appearances, will remain, for some time at least, in perfect tranquility.

6. The Committee, however, influenced by the Vizier's most earnest solicitations, and in consequence of the promise given him at a time when his affairs seemed more immediately to stand in need of our assistance, have determined, in conjunction with the Council, to order Colonel Champion with the 1st Brigade under his command to march immediately, and the Vizier has thrown a bridge of boats over the river at Banaras to facilitate its progress.

7. Accompanying we have the honor to forward a duplicate of our letter per the *Lapwing*.

We are with the greatest respect,  
Honorable Sirs,

Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,

Warren Hastings / Rt. Barker / Wm.  
Aldersey.

Fort William,  
the 9th December 1772.  
(Per *Greenwich*)

## SECRET LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1772

*Shah Alam's complaint regarding non-payment of stipend—Major Morrison's commission on behalf of Shah Alam—inquiry into the conduct of Shitab Rai and Muhammad Riza Khan.*

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. This will be accompanied by a duplicate of our address per *Lapwing* to which we refer.

2. We have since that obtained a copy of a letter to His Majesty from Shaw Alum of so extraordinary a nature that we judged it requisite to transmit it to you by the earliest opportunity and accordingly send it a number in this packet.

3. We had already expatiated with the freedom that our duty to you requires on the conduct and projects of Major Morrison but the present letter so far exceeds what we could have imagined, the wildest fancy and most unbounded ambition could suggest that it almost precludes a serious animadversion upon it. Its folly and presumption must we should think ensure it the

reception it deserves and yet the attention we owe to every thing [however?] extravagant that touches on your interests o[r]dains? us to accompany it with some observations [of?] our own to be submitted with it to the wis[dom?] of your deliberations.

4. It was about the time that Shaw Alam had abandoned his residence at Cor[a] to throw himself into the arms of the Mar[attas] in prosecution of his idle scheme of re-est[abl]ishing the Mogul Empire to it's antient dign[ity] and extent that Major Morrison set out as he [...] on his return to Europe over land. He soon [fell?] in with the King and it is too apparent that [it] was his preconcerted intention to take ser[vice] with him without considering how far [his] engagements might oblige him to appear [in] arms against his own country and the serv[ice] from which he had received his bread and [not]withstanding the probability and general belief that the Morattas with whom in ef[fect] he was enlisted were preparing to invade the province of our ally the Vizir and even to enter Bengal. In pursuance of this he wrote the

Cons. 23rd June letter to our Board referred to in the pre[vious] piece. We took notice of this letter in our [...] but independant of the arrogance of the [letter?] which dictated to us the part we were to [play?] in a great public matter we judged [it] highly impolitic and unsafe to answer the draft of the King till we were satisfied of his amicable intentions and those of his new allies and indeed independant of this the state of our treasury rendered it impracticable to comply with these payments or with those which he would doubtless have continued to demand in full of his stipend as it was then empty of cash besides that the great amount of our debt at interest required our first attention to it's diminution and the immediate discharge of the interest due upon it instead of squandering away the wealth of the Company on a pageant of authority from which you never can derive any real benefit and on these grounds we have suspended the payment of his stipend till this time. This is the complaint which the Shaw and the ambassador of his presence Major Morrison have to prefer against your administration here, but this is not all. You gentlemen are also charged with the crime of bestowing only 26 lacks on the King of Hindostan instead of the crores which used to come into the Royal treasury from Bengal, and Major Morrison is deputed with full powers from a foreign prince to treat with his own sovereign for the revenues of these countries which are already by solemn treaty granted [to] the Company and for which a valuable con[sidera]tion has been paid. With as much right [and?] much greater propriety the Major might [have] been sent to the King of France and we do not doubt that whenever Bengal is to be [put] to auction that monarch will bid high. It is evidently the Mogul's intention so [...] since he fixes it's value at his present stipend, 26 lacks and leaves Morrison [to] make for him the best bargain above [that] sum which he can.

5. We cannot persuade ourselves [that] Major Morrison will presume to produce his powers when he gets home as we conc[lude] it to be little short of treason for a subject to accept of such a commission but as it [is] probable he will endeavour to get access to [the] ministry with representations unfavoura[ble] to the Company we thought it best that [you] should be prepared for them. We can en[ter]tain no doubts of the authenticity of th[is] letter it comes to us by a channel of undoubted credit.

6. In pursuance of our [resolution] on the operations of Suja Dowla, of

which we duly advised you in our last we issued orders for the march of the 1st Brigade into that Prince's dominions under the command of Colonel Champion with the strictest injunctions not to suffer a single sepoy to pass the line of his frontiers under any pretence whatsoever.

7. Colonel Chapman has been ordered with the 2nd Brigade to replace the 1st at Dinapore that it may be at hand to relieve the other or join it in future service.

8. Immediately after the dispatch of the *Lapwing* we commenced the enquiry into the conduct of Rajah Sitabroy. Our proceedings shew the progress we have made. We have in fact only put it in train. The papers of the Bahar collections given in by him are voluminous and intricate but as we have put them into the hands of Mr. Rous, an able servant of the Company and well skilled in the Persian language we hope soon to [see?] them unravelled.

9. In the 66 paragraph of yo[ur] commands of the 10th April 1771 you ment[ioned] an agreement made by Mahomed Reza Cawn in the year 1762 for the rents of the Dac[ca] province amounting to 38,86,242 Rs. of which only 29,63,281, were received, and direct an enqu[iry] to be made into the deficiency and the amount [to] be reclaimed. In our reply in consequence [of] the information received from the Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad on this subject, we advised you that we apprehended some mistake to have arisen as Mahomed Reza Cawn was in charge of the collections of Dacca in that [year] and promised a further explanation of this [matter] as we received further lights upon it. In tra[cing] this affair back on our records we have sin[ce] discovered that the opinion of this balance being due from Mahomed Reza Cawn aro[se] from a mistake of his name for that of Mahomed Aly Cawn his immediate predece[ssor] in the charge of those collections. The copy of a letter from Mr. Middleton the Resid[ent] of the Durbar to the then President Mr. Spe[ke] dated 2nd January 1765 which goes a num[ber] in this packet will afford you the clearest explanation on this subject. You will ob[serve] that the settlement of 38 lacks was made by Mahomed Aly and that Mahomed Reza Cawn agreed only to the settlement of 27,62,765.

10. From this explanation you will please to observe that no claim can be established against Mahomed Reza Cawn for the year 1762 but we have great reason to believe that on a strict scrutiny into his accounts for the Bengal years 1170 and 1171 there will appear a balance against him of seventeen lacks and upwards.

11. We have the honor to send you a number in the packet a plan of the intrenchment round Chandernagore in 1769, for the illustration of the Surveyor General's report on the damage done by the inundation at that place, recorded on Consultation the 22nd October last.

12. We herewith send you a letter from Munny Begam lately received a translation of which goes a number in the packet.

We are,  
Honble Sirs,

Yours most faithful humble servants,  
Warren Hastings / Jams. Harris / Rt.  
Barker / W. Aldersey / Thomas Lane.

Fort William,  
the 10th December 1772.  
(Per *Greenwich*)



## PUBLIC LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1772

*Shipping news—service matters—supply of timber from Morung—new rules to regulate Council proceedings—new regulations for the administration of Calcutta police—acceptance of Captain Mackenzie's resignation delayed to give time to his creditors to file their suits—sundry matters relating to charter party etc.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. On the 10th of last month we dispatched the *Lapwing* packet with our advices, of which we now transmit duplicates from the different departments of your administration here. The *Lapwing* quitted her pilot the 18th.

2. This goes by the *Greenwich*. Captain Carr, who has received a full lading, amounting as per invoice to Rs. 8,55,600. which we hope will give content.

3. At the same time we dispatch the *Nassau* for Madrass to attend the orders of that Presidency, and the *Triton* will follow with all convenient speed.

4. We transmit you by this our proceedings since the last dispatch, with such accounts and papers as have come in from the different offices, and also a few executed covenants as per list, which goes a number in the packet.

5. Captain Carr having given in 2 bills for payment, one for Rs. 1,372. for the maintenance of cadets and recruits by his ship from the time of their arrival at Madrass 'till their landing here, and the other of Rs. 262, for necessities furnished them during the course of the voyage from England, he ordered the first to be paid according to custom, and the other we thought proper to refer to you to be settled with the owners according to the tenour of your contract with them.

6. The Import Warehouse Keeper has made a representation of the deficiency of 3 pieces of Green Long Ells in bale no. 1157 per *Ponsborne*, and it appearing clearly that it was an original short package in the bale, we have recorded his letter on our proceedings and now advise you of it that you may be enabled to settle with the tradesmen accordingly.

7. On a representation to us from Mr. J. Motte of the hardships he has sustained from his diamonds having been refused to be delivered at the India House for want of a proper bill of ladings, we have determined that hereafter the captains shall be required to sign regular bills of lading for such jewels as may be put on board of their ship.

8. In the meantime we hope that Mr. Bathwest, the attorney in London of Mr. Motte, will not meet any obstruction in the delivery of the diamonds

consigned to him on account of the want of such bills, as Mr. Motte, who is a man in good credit and reputation here, has offered to give the most ample indemnification for the transactions of his said attorney.

9. Your orders per *Grafton* respecting Captain Achmuty were implicitly followed, and given out in regular course; but on a scrutiny of the army list, we found that misrepresentation must have been used with your Honorable Court for obtaining the rank to which you nominated him, as he never in fact stood in your service next to Major Upton; and it being your declared intention only to replace him in the rank he had lost by his resignation in 1766, we thought proper to rectify the mistake by issuing the general orders of 11th ultimo, copy of which, for your more particular information, goes a number in this packet.

10. Major Eyres, conceiving that he has suffered a hardship in your late orders with respect to his rank, has addressed us in a letter inserted in our proceedings, which we recommend to your consideration.

11. We have also received a letter from Colonel Campbell accompanying an address to your Honorable Court in behalf of the Corps of Engineers, which he deems to be greatly aggrieved by your late orders respecting them. The arguments which he has there detailed seem so forcible and his conclusions so just that we could not avoid testifying our approbation in a resolution of Council and agreeing to recommend the revocation of the present order. The General has thought it proper in a matter which peculiarly related to the army to mark his concurrence in a separate minute entered on our proceedings of the same day. Colonel Campbell's address goes a number in the packet.

12. Mr. Peacock, whom you ordered to be employed in the Morung country in cutting and transporting hither timbers for the Company's use, has been here some time on his return with pines etc., for the service. By the report of the Master Attendant these pines from the excess of resinous matter in their timber are not fit for the purposes intended. We, therefore, declined pursuing this scheme any further for the present; but as Mr. Peacock is still sanguine in his expectations, and insists that there are pines of all qualities to be found in that country besides other valuable timbers, and is desirous of pursuing the business on his own account, we have granted him leave to proceed to the Morung and the contiguous provinces for the purpose of collecting timbers only, with an express condition that he shall give us the refusal at the market price, and reserving also the right of employing him on the Company's account solely when we shall judge it convenient.

13. Since our last we have had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Reed, one of the members of your Council here, return with health considerably improved by his voyage to Madrass.

14. Mr. Charles Dempster, a writer in your service, died here on the 18th ultimo of a consumption.

15. As the business of this Presidency multiplies every day, we have thought it necessary for the better carrying it on at the Council Board to agree to some regulations which are rather indeed a declaration of those rules which we conceive to have been at all times directed by that spirit of our constitution and the nature of our business than a new regulation for our proceedings. They will be found in our proceedings of the 16th ultimo.

16. We have found it necessary to turn our deliberations on some method for regulating to better purpose the police of your city of Calcutta, now become of first rate magnitude and importance in proportion to its increase. Order becomes more difficult to be maintained, and the manners of its inhabitants become more loose by a more frequent intercourse with peoples of various castes, religions and professions. Of late house breaking and robbery has been exercised in a manner unknown before. The President published such immediate orders as were thought fit for restraining them and we have agreed on and mean to establish the regulations referred to in the margin. Our difficulty lay as to the power of taxing the inhabitants ; but as they have never acquiesced in a voluntary assessment, we have also left it in a great measure to them to be the directors of the means of their own security.

17. Copy of the court martial on Captain Donellan which you have repeatedly enquired after was sent by the *Asia* in January last 1772.

18. Your orders per *Grafton* relating to Madeira wine on account of private trade shall be punctually complied with, and orders have been already issued to the Custom Master for that purpose.

19. We shall also give the necessary instructions to the person who dispatches this ship with regard to the manifest of private trade in conformity to your orders.

20. We have in our sundry letters per . . . advised you particularly of the conduct of Captain McKenzie, and of the reasons which induced us to resolve on the 17th January last that he should be dismissed the service. However, a regard to justice and tenderness for the poor people who are supposed to have suffered by his extortions determined us to delay his dismissal, and even to refuse our consent to his resigning till such time as they should have an opportunity of putting their claims in a regular court of law and of holding him to bail in consequence. This has necessarily detained him in the country till now, and he crys out against the injustice of this detention. There was no necessity for our declaring the reasons upon which our refusal was grounded, but the uprightness of our intentions, and the candour we wished to show, led us to tell him openly our motives. He has taken hold of this, and has lodged a protest in the Mayor's Court against us and our Secretary by whom our orders were signified for all damages he has or may have sustained from them. The only purpose we had in view is however accomplished, since he has given in bail to the suits against him, and in consequence, we have also granted him leave to resign the service. He goes home with his wife and 3 servants in the *Greenwich*.

21. It is necessary to observe that the deviation from our former resolution for dismissing him the service did not proceed from any alteration in our opinion with regard to his conduct ; but only because after detaining him so long in the service in contradiction to his repeated applications and warmest instances to quit it, [it] would have been (as it appears to us) an impotent exertion of authority incapable of the effect we intended, and might have exposed us to ridicule instead of procuring us respect from the army.

22. We have only further to add on this head that we are sensible that Captain McKenzie at home may have a fair occasion for raising a newspaper clamour by representing that we detained him unjustly in the country to

answer suits in which we had no direct interest or concern ; but you gentlemen will judge differently. It is from us only that the poor inhabitants of this country can look for protection or redress for the violence or oppression of your servants.

23. We owe them that redress ; but we have no means of affording it but by assisting in bringing the claims before the court of judicature which alone has power to decide in disputes between the natives and Europeans. In this affair we only exercised the right we possess of refusing the resignation of an officer when we see proper, and pointed out also to the complainants the legal mode of redress which they have since pursued. If, in this last, we have not adhered altogether to mere legal forms. we are confident we have acted in strict conformity to justice and equity, and with intentions which we submit to your judgement for approbation or blame.

24. Lieutenant John Scott having desired a passage on this ship for his wife, we have granted her one with her two servants.

25. Mr. Francis Gladwin having also represented the ill state of his wife's health, we have agreeable to his request granted her a passage on the *Greenwich* with 2 servants.

26. We have permitted Messrs Serymsoure, Stewart and Bruce, late officers of the *Duke of Albany*, to return to England in this ship. Captain Carr has represented that by his instructions he is required to receive on board the officers of all such ships as have been cast away, the Company paying half the expence of their passage ; but as we do not find a precedent for this, we beg leave to refer him to your determination.

27. Mr. David Wilson who has for sometime followed the occupation of a taylor at this place is permitted to take his passage on the *Greenwich*.

28. We have, agreeable to Mr. Jas. Anderson's request, granted him a passage with two servants on the *Greenwich*.

29. Mr. Levy having desired leave to return to Europe in this ship, we have complied with his request and ordered him a passage.

30. Mr. Robert Stratford Byrne who came round from Bencoolen for the benefit of his health has got our permission to proceed to Europe on this ship, as has also Mr. Frederick Desagerliers, late an officer on the Coast.

31. Mr. Imhoff having requested a passage to Europe for his son Charles, we have ordered him one on this ship.

32. A copy of the orders you sent to Madrass relative to this gentleman has been sent to him with directions for his compliance, and we expect his answer.

33. Ensign McLeod who was granted a passage in this ship in consequence of an application from the fort major is since dead.

34. According to our advices per *Lapwing* we have drawn bills on you by this ship to the amount of £ Stg. 94,521-1, agreeable to the register which goes a number in the packet.

35. The balance in your treasury this day is current rupees 9,16,154-7-3, in the cash, current rupees 13,500, in the *Dewannee* treasury 6,05,289-5-0.



36. We have granted the following setts of certificates by this ship.

*Register of certificates per ship Greenwich, Captain Robert Carr, Commander*

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	
One set dated 20th November 1772, to William Budworth 1st Officer of the ship <i>Prince of Wales</i> Captain Jonathon Court, Commander.	Himself	3,246-12-0
One set dated 30th November 1772, to Captain Jonathon Court, Commander of the ship <i>Prince of Wales</i> in further part of his indulgence.	Himself	11,000- 0-0
One set dated 30th November 1772, to Captain Jonathon Court, Commander of the ship <i>Prince of Wales</i> on account of his voyage to Bengal, Anno 1770.	Himself	21,000- 0-0
	Current rupees	35,246-12-0

Fort William,  
10th December 1772.

We are,  
Honorable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
(Signed) Warren Hastings and Council.

*P.S.*  
Since the writing and at the moment of closing the packet we have received a report from the fort major of two soldiers, Mathew Cameron and Jas. Davies, who have served their time and are desirous of returning home by the *Greenwich*. We have granted them a passage in terms of charter party, Captain Carr having received their passage money from the paymaster.

SELECT COMMITTEE LETTER DATED  
12 DECEMBER 1772

*Major Morrison's request for permission to proceed to England as Shah Alam's ambassador to the King of England.*

[ ] O the Secret Committee of the Honorable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Gentlemen,  
The President having communicated to us a letter which he received this morning from Major Morrison<sup>1</sup>, we have thought it adviseable to give you

the earliest information thereof as this is the only authority which we have hitherto received of the design publicly imputed to Major Morrison, and which we have already advised you in our late dispatches by this ship and the *Lapwing*. We have, therefore, sent you enclosed a copy literally taken of his letter, and shall forward another copy regularly attested by the next packet.

We are with the greatest respect,  
Gentlemen,

Your faithful and most obedient  
humble servants,

Warren Hastings / Rt. Barker / Wm.  
Aldersey.

Fort William,  
the 12th December 1772.

### ENCLOSURE

To the Honorable Warren Hastings,  
Governor of Fort William.

Sir,

His Majesty Shah Allam, Emperor of Hindusthan has been pleased to honor me with the appointment of his ambassador to the Court of Great Britain. He has also given me a letter of credence to you acquainting you with my appointment. Before I enter Calcutta I demand of you whether you will receive me as an ambassador on my way to the Court of Great Britain, and if you will allow me to proceed in the first ship bound to England.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,  
John Morrison.

Chinsura,  
6th December 1772.



## NOTES

### LETTERS FROM COURT

No. 1—17 January 1770.

1. **the Coast and Bay** (p. 3, para. 3)—In the language of the Company and its servants during this period, the Coast meant the Madras or Coromandel coast and often the Madras Presidency, and the Bay, the Bay of Bengal and their factories in that quarter. H. Yule and A. C. Burnell, *Hobson-Jobson*, pp. 74 and 223.

2. **the Commissioners** (p. 4, para. 9)—In 1769 the Court of Directors appointed three special Commissioners with a superintending and controlling power over all the settlements of the Company in India. The Commissioners were Henry Vansittart, the late Governor of Bengal, Luke Scrafton and Francis Forde. They sailed for India on frigate the *Aurora*, but were never heard of again. There are frequent references to them in the text, and many instructions were addressed to them by the Court as their fate was not known at the time.

3. **Colonel Forde** (p. 4, para. 10)—Colonel Francis Forde saw service in Madras and joined the Company's army in Bengal in 1758 as second to Clive. In 1759 he took Rajahmundry and Masulipatam and secured the Northern Circars for the Company. He returned to England with Clive, and on the latter's recommendation, was appointed one of the three Commissioners sent to India to superintend the affairs of the Company. The vessel by which he sailed along with the other Commissioners was, however, lost during the voyage. Major V. C. P. Hodson, *List of the Officers of the Bengal Army—1758-1834*, Part II, p. 203.

4. **20 November** (p. 5, para. 11)—One of the copies has December, but it is incorrect.

5. **Brigadier General Smith** (p. 5, para. 16)—Brigadier General Richard Smith was Commander in Chief, Bengal, from 29 January 1767 to 23 November 1769 and was succeeded by Robert Barker. N. K. Sinha, *Fort William India House Correspondence*, vol. V, pp. 606-7.

No. 2—31 January 1770.

1. **the first letter of the Commercolly silk** (p. 7, para. 4)—Kumarkhali in Kushtia, a sub-division of Nadia District, Bengal, was an important centre of silk business, where a Commercial Resident of the Company was stationed. Regarding the grading of silk, Milburn writes, "The different degrees of fineness and coarseness are denoted by the letters A. B. C. Silk of 4-5 cocoons is called A. No. 1; of 6-8 cocoons A. No. 2; of 8-10 cocoons B. No. 1; of 10-12 cocoons B. No. 2; of 12-14 and 16-18 cocoons B. No. 3; of 18-20 cocoons C. No. 1; of 20-22 cocoons C. No. 2; and of 22-24 cocoons, &c. C. No. 3. All filature silk or that which is reeled in factories, is included within the above-named letters and numbers; but silk which the natives reel



by hand, is much coarser, and is marked by the letters A. B. C. D. E. It must be understood that the A.1 silk of one district in India will importantly differ in fineness from the A.1 silk of another district, dependent upon circumstances of climate, culture, &c. &c.: thus Bauleah filature silk is inferior in fineness to Radnagore or Cossimbuzar filature silk of corresponding letters, and Comercolly filature silk exceeds these, and so on." William Milburn, *Oriental Commerce*, p. 302.

**No. 3—23 March 1770.**

1. **by the Valentine** (p. 11, para. 8)—The reference here and in the subsequent paragraphs of this letter is to *Public General Letter to Court*, 13 September 1768. Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 423.

2. **investment** (p. 13)—"The goods purchased for the European markets". H. Verelst, *A view of the English Government in Bengal*, p. 81 n. "The Company were invested with a previous right to the goods for which they contracted, and hence their purchase in India acquired the name of an investment." R. Grant, *A Sketch of the History of the East India Company*, p. 67.

3. **ready money goods** (p. 14, para. 23)—Cash purchases as opposed to purchases made by *dadni* or advances.

4. **Islamabad** (p. 17, para. 38)—Since 1666 Chittagong was known as Islamabad. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. X, p. 308.

5. **the case of Mr. Barwell, late Resident at Beauleah** (p. 17, para. 39)—"Beauleah" or Rampur Boalia (present Rajshahi town) was a factory subordinate to the Chief and Council at Kasimbazar. Barwell was reprimanded by the Chief of Kasimbazar for not conforming to the instructions issued in respect of investment, and on this occasion his attitude towards the Chief was considered as "unbecoming and disrespectful". The Fort William Council passed a severe censure on his conduct. *Home Department, Public Consultation*, 27 March 1769—A; Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 539.

6. **subordinate** (p. 19, para. 45)—A factory of considerable importance was designated a "subordinate", which had a number of minor factories under its control. The affairs of a subordinate were originally managed by a Chief and Council, and those of a factory by a Resident. Later on, the heads of subordinates were also designated Residents. D. N. Banerjee, *Early Administrative System of the East India Company in Bengal*, pp. 117-9.

7. **Committee of Aurangs** (p. 20, para. 49)—Under instructions from the Court of Directors, the Committee was first formed in 1755 "to enquire into the manner of making the investments and the management in general at the subordinate settlements", and "to enquire into the particular conduct of our servants employed there for some time past, now and in future". It was composed of the President and three other members of the Council, and submitted its reports to the Council. K. K. Datta, *Studies in the History of the Bengal Subah, 1740-70*, vol. I, pp. 133-5.

8. **Aleppo** (p. 21, para. 52)—One of the chief emporiums of commerce in the Ottoman Empire in North Syria.

9. **peace . . . with Hyder Ally** (p. 22, para. 54)—The treaty of 1769 between Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore, and the Government of Madras.

10. **your fortifications** (p. 22, para. 55)—Work on the construction of the new Fort William commenced in 1757 and was completed in 1773 at a cost of 2 million sterling. H. E. A. Cotton, *Calcutta—Old and New*, pp. 842-5.

11. **Captain Watson** (p. 22, para. 56)—Henry Watson (1737-86) was appointed Field Engineer on 1 May 1764. Engaged on building the defences of Fort William, he built vessels, and commenced the construction of docks at Kidderpore, near Calcutta. He resigned his post in May 1772, but rejoined the Company's service in August 1774, he rose to the post of the Chief Engineer of the Presidency. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part IV, p. 404.

12. **negligence or dishonesty at Burrampore** (p. 23, para. 61)—On receipt of complaints of gross mismanagement, corruption and fraud in the construction of the cantonments at Berhampore near Cossimbazar, the Fort William Council appointed a Committee of Enquiry comprising Alexander, Aldersey and Skinner to inspect the accounts. Forbes, Palk and two others involved in the scandal were placed under suspension and recalled to the Presidency. Sinha, *op. cit.*, pp. 437-8, 529-30.

13. **Colonel Martin** (p. 26, para. 71)—Fleming Martin (d. 1779). Chief Engineer, Bengal, 20 September 1766. He was raised to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Commandant of the Artillery Battalion, 21 February 1768. He resigned on 7 November 1768. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 238.

14. **Mr. Skyes's acceptance of a present** (p. 28, para. 85)—Francis Sykes, who was Resident at Murshidabad for some time, was permitted by the Fort William Council to accept certain presents offered by the Nawab of Bengal, subject to approval by the Court of Directors. Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 515.

15. **Mr. William Bolts** (p. 29, para. 88)—William Bolts, the well-known Dutch adventurer, joined the Company's service in 1759 as a factor in the Bengal establishment and rose to the position of second in Council at Benares. He carried on extensive private trade, and was involved in many irregular practices, with the result that he was obliged to resign from service in November 1766. After this he continued his stay in India on the ostensible pretext of collecting the moneys due to him, but carried on extensive trade and was involved in intrigues and shady transactions with the Dutch in Bengal and the Vazir of Oudh. The efforts of the Fort William authorities to get him out of the country proved slow and tortuous, and he was finally seized and deported in September 1768. The action was full of legal flaws, especially as Bolts was an Alderman of Calcutta holding his office for life under the existing statutes. The case came in appeal to His Majesty the King, and on the advice of the Lords of the Privy Council, he was formally reinstated in the office, but he did not return to India. In 1772 he wrote his *Considerations on Indian affairs* attacking the administration of Verelst, and the latter wrote in reply *A View of the Rise, Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal*. For a clear and connected account of the incidents relating to the deportation of William Bolts, see Nandalal Chatterji, *Verelst's Rule in India*; N. L. Hallward, *William Bolts*.

16. **the Charter** (p. 29, para. 90)—The Charter of 1753.
17. **a memorial** (p. 32, para. 98)—For the text of the memorial of the Armenian merchants, Gregore Khojamall and Johanness Rafael, and an interesting account of their conflict with Verelst, see M. J. Seth, *Armenians in India*, Chap. XXX.
18. **a new regulation** (p. 34, para. 110)—See *Public General Letter from the Court of Directors*, 16 March 1768, para. 77 *et seq*; Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 68.
19. **Captain Parker and Lieutenant Vertue** (p. 35, para. 113)—John Neville Parker and William Vertue took part in the Batta Mutiny and resigned from the Company's army. On that occasion Parker questioned the authority of the court martial to try him as he had resigned at an earlier date, and contended that he had not contracted to serve for any fixed time and could resign at any time he chose. His contention was over-ruled, but he was acquitted of the crime of mutiny. The appeal to the Court of King's Bench was presumably in this connection. William Bolts, *Considerations on Indian Affairs*, Appendix No. XXXIII. Parker was, however, taken back in the Company's service in 1772 and restored to his full rank as lieutenant colonel in 1774. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 457; Part IV, p. 351.
20. **Mr. Vernon Duffield** (p. 36, para. 116)—Vernon Duffield was one of the military officers cashiered in connection with the Batta Mutiny. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part II, p. 92.
21. **Captain John Donnellan** (p. 36, para. 118)—Captain Donnellan of the Bengal European Regiment was one of the four prize agents appointed after the capture of Masulipatam. He was tried by a court martial on a charge of receiving bribes from some Indian merchants and cashiered. On the strength of a certificate from the East India Company, dated 8 July 1772, that during his service he behaved as a gallant officer he was taken into H. M. 39th (Adlercron's) Regiment. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part II, pp. 68-9.
22. **13 February** (p. 37, para. 123)—The correct month is September. Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 449.
23. **Mr. Rumbold** (p. 40, para. 133)—Sir Thomas Rumbold was Chief at Patna, 1763, and a member of the Fort William Council from 1766-69. He resigned service in December 1769 and returned to England. Later he was Governor of Madras from 8 February 1778 to 6 April 1780. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 706.
24. **Sir Robert Fletcher** (p. 41, para. 137)—Sir Robert Fletcher, who later became Brigadier General and Commander in Chief, Madras, served in the Bengal army during the years 1763-66. He was implicated in the Batta Mutiny and cashiered on 15 October 1766. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part II, p. 195.
25. **irruption of Narraindoo** (p. 44, para. 154)—Naraindoo was one of the zamindars of Chicacole in Ganjam District (Northern Circars), which had been ceded by the Nizam to the Company. He, along with other zamindars of the region, proved refractory, and a detachment under Col. Peach was sent in May 1768 to punish him. Sinha, *op. cit.*, pp. 418, 522 and 630; Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 487.
26. **charge of your surveyors** (p. 45, para. 156)—See *Public General*

*Letter to the Court of Directors*, 2 February 1769, paras. 77-8. Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 511.

27. **the adjustments which your late Sub-Accountant has made** (p. 45, para. 158)—For the history of the subject, dealt with in paras. 158-160, see *Letter to Court*, 2 February 1769, para. 106 *et seq*; Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 516.

28. **accounts of restitution for losses in the capture of Calcutta, 1756** (p. 45, para. 158)—By the agreement of 12 February 1757, Mir Jafar agreed to pay a crore of rupees to the Company and an additional sum to cover the losses sustained by the private inhabitants of Calcutta. The actual sums paid were as follows:

Company	...	...	£1,200,000
Europeans	...	...	£ 600,000
"Natives"	...	...	£ 250,000
Armenians	...	...	£ 100,000.

Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 15-6.

29. **the article of Shujah Dowlah on account treaty money** (p. 45, para. 159)—Presumably the reference is to the assignment of Benares by Shujaud-Daulah to the Company as a security for the payment of the war indemnity in fulfilment of Article VI of the Treaty of Allahabad (1765), and to the accounts relating to the receipt of the indemnity moneys. The payments were completed and Benares reverted to the Vazir in July 1766. A. L. Srivastava, *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. II, pp. 30-2.

30. **Mr. Kiernander** (p. 47, para. 169)—Rev. John Zachariah Kiernander, the well-known Danish missionary of Calcutta. K. Blechynden, *Calcutta: Past and Present*, p. 77.

31. **Sir Robert Barker** (p. 50, para. 184)—Became Commander in Chief of the forces under the Presidency of Bengal in succession to Brigadier General Smith who resigned his post on 23 November 1769, and held this post till 22 December 1773. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part I, p. 92, and Part II, p. 717.

**No. 4—6 April 1770.**

1. **enclosed** (p. 53, para. 5)—The list is not in the collection.

**No. 5—20 June 1770.**

1. **the late treaty of peace** (p. 54, para. 1)—The Treaty of Paris, 10 February 1763, which brought the Seven Years' War to an end.

2. **Sir John Lindsay** (p. 54, para. 1)—Sir John Lindsay was Commodore and Commander in Chief in the East Indies from August 1769 to March 1772 and reached India early in 1770. When the Company sent out the ill-fated Commissioners to reform the administration of India, Fox's Ministry vested Lindsay with plenipotentiary powers as a representative of the King. It was supposed at first that he had the rights of a plenipotentiary only in the Persian Gulf; in other places he was only to assist the Company's authorities in measures concerning war and peace, special attention being paid to the relevant articles of the Treaty of Paris, to which the French Government had appealed. But he was in fact vested with far wider powers, of which the



Company and its servants in India were for long kept ignorant; and this led to violent disputes between him and the Company's Governments in India, especially at Madras. It is significant to note that the Government of Bengal is informed here for the first time of his plenipotentiary powers in respect of disputes with the French. There is no reference to these powers in the relevant paragraphs of the Court's letter to the Fort William Council, 15 September 1769, dealing with this subject. L. S. Sutherland, *The East India Company in Eighteenth Century Politics*, pp. 199-201; H. H. Dodwell (Ed.), *Cambridge History of India*, volume V, pp. 277-8 and 594.

**No. 6—27 June 1770.**

1. **our Secret Committee** (p. 55, para. 3)—The Secret Committee of the Court was composed of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Court, and not less than three and not more than seven additional members. The Committee was normally empowered to take necessary precautions for the safety of the outward and homeward bound ships of the Company. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, pp. 114-5.

2. **Lord Weymouth** (p. 55, para. 6)—Thomas Thynne, 3rd Viscount Weymouth and 1st Marquess of Bath, Secretary of State.

3. **His Most Christian Majesty** (p. 55, para. 6)—The King of France.

4. **An Act** (p. 58, para. 19)—An Act of 1770, *viz.*, 10 Geo. III C. 47.

5. **the navy and army donations** (p. 59, para. 21)—On the occasion of his restoration as nawab, Mir Jafar promised a donation of 25 lakhs of rupees to the Company's army and 12½ lakhs of rupees to the Company's navy. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 74; Mill, *History of British India*, vol. III, p. 259.

6. **the estate of Bolackadass** (p. 59, para. 21)—One of the copies has Boolookadoss. Bulakidas Seth, a celebrated banker of the time, died on 23 June 1769. The reference here is to the long disputed claim for the repayment of certain sums lent by him to the Company during the war with Mir Kasim. For an interesting account of the subject, see Justice Torick Ameer Ali's paper, "Bolaqui Das's account with the East India Company and the trial of Nand Kumar", *Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings*, vol. XX, pp. 12-5.

7. **Sir Edward Hawke** (p. 61, para. 29)—After a distinguished career at sea Sir Edward Hawke, later created Baron, retired in January 1771 as Admiral and Commander in Chief of Great Britain. *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. IX, p. 192.

**No. 7—4 January 1771.**

1. **a fund for the relief and maintenance of European officers and soldiers** (pp. 67-8, para. 27)—At the time of his death Mir Jafar bequeathed a sum of five lakhs of rupees to Lord Clive, and the latter transferred it to the Company for establishing the above fund, which is generally known as Lord Clive's Fund. A donation of three lakhs of rupees received subsequently from Saifud-Daulah was also added to the fund. In April 1771, a committee of the Court of Directors was established for its management. Together with interest that had accumulated, the fund had ten lakhs when it was brought into operation. P. Auber, *Analysis of the Constitution of*

*the East India Company*, p. 182; C. Lushington, *The History, Design and Present State of the Religious, Benevolent and Charitable Institutions founded by the British in Calcutta and its Vicinity*, p. 267.

**No. 9—8 March 1771.**

1. **Rate** (p. 71, para 7)—Nautical term. The order or class to which a war vessel belongs, determined according to its size, armament, etc., as first rate, second rate, etc.

**No. 12—10 April 1771.**

1. **gomastahs, delols and pykars** (p. 81, para. 18)—“are a chain of agents through whose hands the articles of merchandize pass from the loom of the manufacturer, or the storehouse of the cultivator, to the public merchant, or exporter.” H. Verelst, *A view of the Rise, Progress and Present State of English Government in Bengal*, Glossary.

2. **payment of choute** (p. 82, para. 24)—Wilson writes in his Glossary, “In Hindustan, under the Mogul Government, a *chauth* was levied from the successful party in a law suit or arbitration: the precise proportion is not stated, but it was probably a fourth of a rupee or four annas per cent., on the value of the litigated property”.

3. **Carumnassah** (p. 84, para. 35)—Karamnasa, a small river that separated the old province of “Bahar” (Bihar) from that of Benares. On crossing this river from “Bahar” (Bihar) officials were formerly considered as having quitted the Company’s territories, and received a *batta* or additional rate of pay. W. Hamilton, *The East India Gazetteer*, vol. I, p. 358.

4. **Colonel Munro’s demand of two laaks** (p. 85, para. 38)—Sir Hector Munro (1726-1805) was the victor of the battle of Buxar, and he returned to England in 1765. After the battle of Benares (1764) Emperor Shah Alam granted Munro a *jagir* in Bengal, who transferred his rights to Mir Jafar on a promise by the latter to pay two lakhs of rupees to him. Soon after, the Company became possessed of the *Diwani*, and the Fort William Council was of opinion that in the changed circumstances, in fairness to the Nawab, the sum of two lakhs should be paid to Munro by the Company. *Public Letter to Court*, 25 September 1769, pp. 104-6. Sinha, *op. cit.*, pp. 583-4.

5. **to pay to Juggut Seat** (p. 85, para. 38)—Famous family of bankers of Murshidabad deriving the name Jagat Seth, “Banker of the World”, from a title conferred by the Mughal Emperor in 1724. In the time of Lord Clive the Company became indebted to Jagat Seth for large sums of money. After repeated conversations it was agreed that the sum to be repaid should be fixed at Rs. 21,00,000, and this should be paid over a period of 10 years, commencing from the Bengal year 1173 or 1766 A.D. in equal yearly instalments, the Nawab of Murshidabad and the Company each paying one-half of the sum due, *Public Proceedings*, 29 January 1772. For a detailed account of the family of Jagat Seth, see L. S. S. O’Malley, *Bengal District Gazetteer, Murshidabad*, pp. 57-8.

6. **Mahomet Reza Cawn** (p. 85, para. 40)—On the accession of Najmud-Dowlah as Nawab of Bengal in 1765, Muhammad Riza Khan was appointed *Naib Subah* or the Nawab’s deputy through the influence of the Company.

When the Company obtained the *Dewani* he was appointed *Naib Diwan* to the Company, and he held this office till he was dismissed from it in 1772 on charges of misappropriation and corruption. On being acquitted of the charges, he again held the post under the Nawab, except for a brief interval, till his death in 1791.

7. **Rajahmaul or Mongheer** (p. 86, para. 46)—Rajmahal in the Santal Parganas District, Bengal, was, for a short period the capital of Bengal on the conquest of that province by Akbar, and is also known as Akbarnagar or Akbarabad. Monghyr, a historic town in Bengal, was made by Mir Kasim his capital in 1763. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, vol. XVII, p. 303 ; Hamilton, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 444.

8. **Monsieur Gentil** (p. 87, para. 52)—Jean Baptiste Joseph Gentil (1726-99), a well-known French military adventurer who, after the collapse of the French power in India, served under Mir Kasim and Shujaud-Daulah. He took part in the battle of Buxar and was for many years the head of the French troops in the Vazir's employ. Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*, p. 161 ; Srivastava, *op. cit.*, p. 339.

9. **Suffraz Cawn** (p. 88, para. 54)—Sarfaraz Khan, Nawab of Bengal, 1739-40.

10. **Mr. Lloyd's representation** (p. 91, para. 75)—Charles Lloyd represented his difficulties regarding the lead which he bought of the Company in May 1768, but was unable to send up to Allahabad in consequence of the new regulation prohibiting trade with Shujaud-Daulah's territories. *Home Department, Public Proceedings*, vol. 35, 16 January 1770, pp. 85-7.

11. **Captain Lockhart Russell** (p. 92, para. 80)—An engineer on the Bombay establishment. Employed on the fortifications of Fort William from January 1771 to January 1772. In charge of an expedition to Mauritius early in 1772 for reconnoitring the harbour of Port Louis and its defences. Returned to England, July 1772. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 709.

12. **improper application made by the military officers to General Smith** (p. 94, para. 90)—Certain field officers headed by Sir Robert Barker signed a paper requesting General Smith to use his "interest" with the Court of Directors to prevent in future supersessions by persons sent from Europe by convincing the Directors of the character and ability of the officers in India. Barker was reprimanded by the Council for this action. *Secret Department Proceedings*, vol. 5, 16 December 1769, pp. 260-7.

13. **association of the officers in 1766** (p. 97, para. 109)—The reference is to the organised move of the Company's officers to resign in a body as a protest against the abolition of double *batta*. Clive, by his firm and resolute handling of the situation, put down the revolt. A number of officers were court-martialled and dismissed from the Company's service. Sir George Forrest, *The Life of Lord Clive*, vol. II, p. 319, *et seq.*

14. **charge brought against Major John Graham** (p. 98, para. 111)—Graham was dismissed from service on charges of insubordination, and the Fort William Council observed that he had shown "a very refractory and disobedient spirit" throughout the investigation. Sinha, *op. cit.*, pp. 580-1.

15. **the Restitution** (p. 103, para. 134)—On being restored to the Nawabship, by the treaty of 10 July 1763, Mir Jafar agreed “to give thirty lakhs of rupees to defray all the expenses and loss accruing to the Company from the war and stoppage of their investment”, and also to “reimburse to all private persons the amount of such losses, proved before the Governor and Council, as they may sustain in their trade in the Country”. (Article X). This was confirmed by Article XI of the treaty concluded with Najmud-Daulah in 1765. C. U. Aitchinson, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, vol. II, pp. 234 and 240. The sum to be paid was finally settled at £375,000 to the Company and £600,000 to Europeans, Indians, etc. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 16.

16. **the Society of Trade** (p. 103, para. 135)—In 1764 the Court of Directors ordered that all inland trade in salt, betelnut, tobacco, and all other articles by the servants of the Company in their individual capacity should cease forthwith. But the Company’s servants would not give up their valued privilege without a struggle. On 10 August 1765, on the initiative of Clive, the Fort William Government established a body known as the Society of Trade composed of the senior servants of the Company, and it was given a virtual monopoly of inland trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco for a period of one year. The management of the society was vested in a Committee of Trade composed of two members from the Council and two from the Select Committee. In 1766 the life of the society was extended by another year, subject to certain changes in its constitution and procedure. The Court of Directors, however, did not approve of the formation of the society, and it was finally dissolved in September 1768. For a detailed history of the society, see Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 387, *et seq.*

The society, the accounts of which were opened on 1 September 1765 is referred to in the correspondence as Society of Trade A, and that which operated in the second year as Society of Trade B. *Fourth Report from the Committee appointed to enquire into the Nature, State and Condition of the East India Company*, 22 April 1773; House of Commons Reports, vol. 3, p. 467.

No. 14—3 May 1771.

1. **ne exeat regno** (p. 113, para. 11)—Literally let him not go out of kingdom. A writ issued out of chancery or equity to restrain a person from leaving the jurisdiction of a court pending an action.

No. 15—12 June 1771.

1. **General letter dated 30 October** (p. 115, para. 2)—Presumably the reference is to the postscript of *Public General Letter*, 1 October 1770, bearing this date.

No. 16—28 August 1771.

1. **from the Select Committee 31st do** (p. 117, para. 1)—The reference is to the *Select Committee Letter to Court*, dated 2<sup>d</sup> December, with postscript dated 31 December 1770.

2. **compact with the publick** (p. 128, para. 43)—Under the terms of the agreement reached with the British Government in 1769, which was to



be valid for five years, the Company undertook (a) to continue to pay to the public (the Treasury) the annual sum of £400,000; (b) to export during that term British goods equal in value on an average to those exported annually for the preceding five years; and (c) to lend to the public at 2 per cent, the surplus, if any, after paying certain specified debts. 9 Geo. IV, cap. 24 was passed to give effect to this agreement. Auber, *op. cit.*, p. 510.

**No. 19—25 March 1772.**

1. **29th August** (p. 138, para. 1)—Presumably, the reference is to the postscript to the *General Letter from the Court*, 28 August 1771.

2. **22nd January last** (p. 138, para. 1)—The date given here is presumably wrong, the previous letter from the Court to the Fort William Council being dated 15 January 1772. *Public General Letters to Court*, 5 September 1772, para. 1, and 10 November 1772, para. 1.

3. **Committee of Trade** (p. 160, para. 123)—See note on “Society of Trade”, Letter dated 10 April 1771, note No. 16.

**No. 20—23 September 1772.**

1. **exclusive of Lord Clive’s jaghire** (p. 164, para. 5)—In 1759, Clive was granted a *jagir* by Mir Jafar in recognition of his services in suppressing the rebellion of his nobles and protecting him from the invasion of the *Shahzada*. It consisted of the quit-rent of the zamindari of Calcutta or the Twenty-four Parganas zamindari, which had been granted to the Company after the battle of Plassey. The Court of Directors objected to this transaction, and stopped payment in 1763. But, in 1765, wishing to avail themselves of his services to restore order and good administration in Bengal, they confirmed him in the *jagir* for a period of 10 years, and this was later renewed for a fresh period of 10 years. The reference here is to payments under this head.

**No. 21—24 November 1772.**

1. **indemnity on tea** (p. 166, para. 12)—In 1767, by arrangement between the Company and the Cabinet, the British Government cut down certain duties levied on tea for a period of five years, and the Company undertook to indemnify the Exchequer for all losses resulting from the reduction. This arrangement was continued in 1772 for another period of five years. *Statutes At Large*, 7 Geo. III, C. 56; 12 Geo. III, C. 60.

**No. 22—11 December 1772.**

1. **puncheons** (p. 169, para. 3)—Now rare. A large cask for liquids, fish, etc., specifically one of a definite capacity, varying for different liquids and commodities.

2. **Council of Supracargoes** (p. 169, para. 6)—Official agent of the Company to transact business with the Hong merchants at Canton.

## LETTERS TO COURT

**No. 2—25 January 1770.**

1. **the fir trade** (p. 177, para. 30)—Masts and yards for the use of ships were being sent from England, but as this was found to be both inconvenient

and expensive, the Court of Directors instructed that they be obtained locally. The expedition of Mirtle to the Morung country was to obtain proper timbers for the purpose. *Public General Letter from Court*, 16 March 1768, para. 23; Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 78.

2. **a band of synasses or faquirs** (p. 178, para. 30)—Literally, *sannyasi* is a Hindu religious mendicant, and a *fakir* is a Muslim religious mendicant. The reference here is to the band of Hindu mendicants who offered opposition to British administration and created disturbances in many parts of Bengal.

3. **November bund** (p. 178, para. 35)—“There are three seasons, locally termed *bands*, for hatching the eggs, spinning and gathering the cocoons, viz., the November *band*, from 1st October to end of February, the March *band*, from 1st March to 30th June, and the July (or *barsat*) *band*, from 1st July to 30th September. The first is the most important, for the silk worms thrive best in the cold season, and the silk is then better in quality and much more valuable. The March *band* is not so good, and the rainy season band the worst.” L. S. S. O'Malley, *Bengal District Gazetteers, Murshidabad*, p. 130.

4. **Captain Kinloch** (p. 180, para. 42)—Captain George Kinloch (d. 1768) commanded the abortive expedition to Nepal in 1767, his object being to assist the Raja of Khatmandu who was being attacked by the Gurkha King Prithwi Narayan. Hodson, *op. cit.*, part II, p. 598.

5. **Lieutenant Colonel Campbell** (p. 180, para. 47)—Sir Archibald Campbell (1739-91), who was later Governor of Madras, was at this time Chief Engineer of Bengal. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part I, p. 281.

6. **Committee of Inspection** (p. 182, para. 53)—On 28 February 1766, the Select Committee at Fort William appointed a committee known as the Committee of Inspection “to examine into the state of the several departments, civil and military, and to establish such regulations as they shall judge necessary to the due execution of those offices”. *Press List of Records belonging to the Foreign Department of the Government of India: Secret Department of Inspection*, preface. From this letter it appears that the Committee had ceased to function for some time. Two years later, on 24 April 1772, the Fort William Council resolved to form itself into a Board of Inspection as it deemed it highly necessary “to enter upon an Inspection of the different offices at the Presidency with a view to establish Effectual Regulations for the future conduct of them and effectually to retrench any superfluous and unnecessary article of the Expenses which appear to be greatly increased”. (*Ibid.*) The Board continued to function under a new name, Secret Department of Inspection, until it was finally merged into the Secret and Separate Department in 1787.

7. **Colonel Ralph Winwoud** (p. 182, para. 59)—Colonel Ralph Winwood was Commandant, Bengal Artillery, from March 1766 to March 1768, when he returned to England. He was appointed by the Court of Directors on 8 February 1769 as battalion lieutenant colonel, next below Matthew Leslie, and was promised the command of the Artillery when the post fell vacant. He resigned his post on 21 September 1770 as a protest against this promise

not having been kept by the appointment of Major Pearse to the post. Hodson, *op. cit.*, IV, p. 506.

8. **Captains Goddard and Actmooty** (p. 183, para. 63)—In the Correspondence there are references to two men named Achmuty—Arthur Achmuty and Arthur Forbes Achmuty. Both had been involved in the Batta Mutiny of 1766. Captains Goddard and Arthur Forbes Achmuty were restored by the Fort William Council to their original ranks in service. Captain Arthur Achmuty prayed for the same concession being extended to him, and his request was finally granted. Hodson, *op. cit.*, I, p. 6; *Public Department Proceedings*, vol. 35, 26 February 1770, pp. 279-80.

9. **Mr. Verelst** (p. 187, para. 89)—Henry Verelst. Governor of Bengal in succession to Clive from January 1767 to December 1769.

10. **thrown into the hands of the French** (p. 188, para. 100)—This was with reference to a letter from the agents for the Navy Donation asking for the payment of the first moiety of the donation to their constituents in England who had drawn upon them bills in favour of the French Council at Chandernagore. *Public Department, Original Consultation*, 1 August 1769, No. 1. It was quite usual at the time for the Company's officers to remit their savings through the French Company to avoid certain difficulties in transmitting money through the English Company.

#### No. 3—4 February 1770.

1. **Nijib-ul-Dowlah** (p. 193, para. 7)—Najib Khan, one of the Rohilla chiefs on whom the Mughal Emperor Ahmad Shah conferred the title of Najib-ud-Dowlah. He was the virtual ruler of Delhi and the surrounding districts from the battle of Panipat in 1761 to his death in October 1770.

2. **Gazy-ul-Dein Cawn** (p. 193, para. 8)—Ghaziud-Din Khan, son of Nizam-ul-Mulk I, also known by his title Imad-ul-Mulk, was Vazir to the Mughal Emperor Ahmad Shah (1748-54), whom he deposed, blinded and imprisoned, and to Alamgir II (1754-9), whom he got assassinated.

3. **Captain Harper** (p. 193, para. 8)—Captain Gabriel Harper was Resident at the Court of the Nawab of Oudh till 22 March 1772, when he was recalled by Warren Hastings. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part II, p. 390.

#### No. 6—18 March 1770.

1. **a late publick act** (p. 199, para. 9)—Presumably the reference is to the dismissal of Najaf Khan from his office of Foujdar of Kora on 21 February 1770. The Select Committee at Fort William in its letter to the Select Committee at Fort St. George dated 13 March 1770, observed, "Our allies the King and Vizier retain the same conduct as we described in our last letter of the 17th of February, excepting that His Majesty, evidently by the persuasion of the Vazier, has within these few days demonstrated in the dismissal of Nijib Cawn from the Foujedary of Corah how little weight the English and their friends retain in his capricious breast." *Select Committee Proceedings*, vol. 17, 13 March 1770, p. 102; Srivastava, *op. cit.*, p. 143.

2. **Sau-ide Cawn** (p. 199, para. 10)—Khwaja Samad Khan. see *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, 1770-72, vol. III, Letter Nos. 112-3.

3. **the tenth paragraph of your General letter of the 16th March 1768** (p. 200, para. 15)—The reference is to the letter of this date addressed to the Select Committee at Calcutta. On the occasion of the death of Najm-ud-Doulah and the succession of Saif-ud-Daulah, the Court laid down the formalities to be observed on such occasions. *Select Committee Letters from Court*, vol. 23, 1756-71, pp. 146-7.

**No. 7—9 May 1770.**

1. **patrones the Ranah** (p. 201, para. 3)—This is presumably a mistake. The ruler of Gohad at the time was Bhim Singh.

2. **his rival** (p. 202, para. 4)—Ranjit Singh, brother of Nawal Singh. K. R. Qanungo, *History of the Jats*, vol. I, p. 229.

**No. 9—25 August 1770.**

1. **Belcootchy and Hurriall** (p. 212, para. 46)—Handial is now a village in Pabna District, Bengal. It was one of the three chief towns of Rajshahi District which “used to produce four-fifths of all the silk, raw or manufactured, used in or exported from Hindustan”. Badalgachhi to the east of Handial is now a village on the river Jumna, and is included in Naogaon sub-division, Rajshahi District, Bengal. According to Hamilton, it was formerly the station of the Commercial Resident of Handial. L. S. S. O’Malley, *Bengal District Gazetteers, Pabna*, p. 117 ; *Rajshahi*, p. 154.

2. **Attiah Zemindar** (p. 212, para. 47)—The reference appears to be to the Zamindar of Bhaturia in Rajshahi District. *Public Department Proceedings*, 26 February 1770, vol. 35, pp. 266-68 ; 3 April 1770, pp. 408-14 ; L. S. S. O’Malley, *Bengal District Gazetteers, Rajshahi*, p. 29.

3. **your orders of the 16 March 1768** (p. 215, para. 64)—The reference is to the *Select Committee Letter from the Court* of this date, paras. 10-12.

4. **quick stock . . . dead stock** (p. 217, para. 85)—It appears that by the term “quick stock” was meant the liquid assets of the Company or “the net value of the stock in trade” ; and by “dead stock” was meant articles and goods which were not part of that stock in trade, such as forts, buildings and works, and military stores issued to the services.

**No. 10—31 August 1770.**

1. **for the assistance which we . . . engaged to grant him** (p. 221, para. 3)—On this occasion, in spite of the directions of the Court of Directors to the contrary, Shah Alam was promised two battalions of sepoys “as well to prevent his encountering fresh difficulties in his projected purpose as to convince him that the English mean religiously to perform every engagement that they have enter’d into with their allies by treaty or by solemn promise.” *Letter to Court*, 30 September 1769, para. 6 ; Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 590.

2. **Munerah-ul-Dowlah** (p. 223, para. 9)—Riza Quli Khan Khorasani generally known as Munir-ud-Dawlah (c. 1695-1773 A.D.) came to India as the ambassador of Nadir Shah, but stayed in the country after his master’s assassination and became the trusted adviser of three successive Mughal Emperors. He was the chief minister of Shah Alam II from 1760-71. Losing



royal favour for a time, he was appointed Governor of Kora and Allahabad (1771-3) through the intercession of the Company.

3. **Mr. Madec** (p. 224, para. 11)—The well-known French adventurer René Madec (1736-84), who deserted both the French and English armies, and then served under various Indian princes, including the Raja of Gohad and the Vazir of Oudh. Buckland, *op. cit.*, p. 269.

4. **Bassalut Jung** (p. 225, para. 17)—Basalat Jang, brother of Nizam Ali Khan, the ruler of Hyderabad. He was given Guntur Sarkar as jagir for his lifetime under the treaty of 1766 (revised in 1768) entered into by the Company with the Nizam.

**No. 11—11 September 1770.**

1. **our letter of the 1st instant** (p. 227, para. 4)—No letter of the Select Committee was issued on this date. Presumably the reference is to the *Select Committee Letter to the Court*, 31 August 1770. See *Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 153.

**No. 12—1 October 1770.**

1. **Mohoors (postscript)**, p. 233, para. 5)—In 1769 a new *mohur* was issued by the Company, which was to pass as legal tender for 16 *sicca* rupees. *Public Department, Original Consultation*, 20 October 1774, No. 5; *Hobson-Jobson*, p. 573.

**No. 13—31 October 1770.**

1. **Colonel Gailliez** (p. 234, para. 3)—Lt-Col. Primrose Gailliez was at this time Officer Commanding at Allahabad.

2. **Vansittart** (p. 237, para. 17)—George Vansittart was Resident at Midnapore factory and later, during the period of this correspondence, Chief of the factory at Patna. In January 1773 he became a member of the Board.

3. **disputes between the Rajah of Morung and his Dewan** (p. 238, para. 21)—Morung is a region in Southern Nepal between the rivers Kosi and Mechi. The Raja of Morung was one of the many rulers of the land before the conquest of the whole of Nepal by Prithvi Narayan, the founder of modern Nepal. Kham Dull Sain, Raja of Morung, was expelled from his country by his *Dewan* Boid Keru, and his request for help was turned down by the Calcutta Government. He returned and regained his position by his own efforts, but was shortly afterwards assassinated. He was succeeded by his uncle Raghunath Sain, who, being opposed by the *Dewan's* forces again, appealed to the British for help. The Fort William Council declined to interfere. *Select Committee Proceedings*, vol. XVII, 15 April 1770, pp. 185-9.

4. **Cession of Cuttack** (p. 239, para. 24)—The Company was anxious to obtain the province of Cuttack or Orissa which would link their possessions in Bengal with the Northern Circars. Clive during his second Governorship opened negotiations with Janoji Bhonsle of Nagpur for the cession of the province in return for the payment of the arrears of *chauth* in respect of Bengal and a promise of regular payment of 12 lakhs of rupees a year in future. The negotiations ultimately failed, and it was not till 1803 that the

Company acquired the province under the Treaty of Devgaon. J. Sarkar, *Bihar and Orissa during the fall of the Mughal Empire*, pp. 122-3.

5. **treaty of 1765** (p. 241, para. 30)—By Article 5 of the Treaty of Allahabad, 16 August 1765, the Zamindari of Benares was restored to the Vazir of Oudh, on condition that Balwant Singh was continued in its possession, paying the same revenue as before. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 99.

6. **The terms** (p. 241, para. 30)—For the text of the agreement between Shujaud-Daulah and Raja Chait Singh, see Aitchison, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 72.

7. **grandson of the late Rajah Bulwand Sing** (p. 241, para. 33)—Balwant Singh had only one legitimate son by name Chait Singh. The dispute was between Mahip Narayan, the infant son of Balwant Singh's daughter and Chait Singh, and the latter was able ultimately to gain the zamindari. H. R. Nevill, *Benares—A Gazetteer*, p. 202.

8. **Omrose Gosseine** (p. 242, para. 35)—Umrao Giri Gosain. He and his brother Himmat Bahadur were two important commanders of the Vazir's army. Srivastava, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 338.

#### No. 14—1 November 1770.

1. **the Supervisors** (p. 244, para. 3)—The special Commissioners appointed by the Court of Directors. See note on "The Commissioners" *Letters from Court*, 17 January 1770, note no. 2.

#### No. 15—12 December 1770.

1. **engagements with the Crown** (p. 246, para. 6)—See note on "compact with the publick" *Letter from Court*, 28 August 1771, note no. 2.

2. **the City** (p. 249, para. 24)—The reference here is to Murshidabad which is often referred to in the correspondence by this term. *Public Department Proceedings*, vol. 36, 4 December 1770, p. 1024.

3. **Lord Clive's attornies** (p. 251, para. 43)—The reference here is to certain disputes between Clive and the Company regarding the rate of exchange in respect of two certificates issued to him on 31 March 1769. See minute by Floyer, *Public Department Proceedings*, vol. 36, 29 November 1770, pp. 1015-9.

#### No. 16—24 December 1770.

1. **your commands transmitted by the Mansfild** (p. 255, para. 1)—The reference here and in the subsequent paragraphs is presumably to the *Letter from Court of Directors*, 23 March 1770.

2. **by the deputation** (p. 256, para. 8)—The reference here is to the deputation composed of Cartier, Russel and Col. Smith sent by the Select Committee by its resolution of 17 August 1768 to Shujaud-Daulah to persuade him to reduce his military strength and to settle other matters. The treaty of 1768 with the Vazir was negotiated by this deputation. *Letter to the Court of Directors*, 13 September 1768, paras. 18-20. Sinha, *op. cit.*, pp. 415-6; Srivastava, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 77, *et seq.*

3. **Nudjebgur** (p. 258, para. 13)—Nuruddin's *Sarguzasht-e-Najibud-dulah* states that Najibud-Daulah returned to Najibabad after leaving

Zabita Khan with the Marathas. Sh. Abdur Rashid (Ed.), *An Account of Najib-ud-Daulah* by Sayyad Nuruddin Hussain Khan Bahadur Fakhri, p. 136. The reference here is to the fort of Patthargarh or Najafgarh, which is a mile and a half from Najibabad and was built by Najibud-Daulah. H. R. Nevill, *Bijnor—A Gazetteer*, pp. 277-8.

4. *Shawzada* (p. 259, para. 14)—Prince Jawan Bakht Mirza Jahandar Shah, the eldest son of Shah Alam. *The Calender of Persian Correspondence*, 1770-2, vol. III, Letter no. 473.

5. **Mirza Amany** (p. 261, para. 18)—Asaf-ud-Daulah, who succeeded as the ruler of Oudh. Mirza Amany was his name before he became Nawab.

**No. 18—18 January 1771.**

1. **Runjeet Singh, brother of Nawal Sing** (p. 266, para. 2)—On the death of Raja Ratan Singh, the ruler of the Jats, he was succeeded by his infant son, and there followed a struggle for the regency between his half brothers, Nawal Singh and Ranjit Singh, in which the former was finally successful. Qanungo, *op. cit.*, p. 227.

2. *pergunnah battalions* (p. 268, para. 6)—Sepoy battalions deputed to assist in the collection of revenue.

**No. 19—12 February 1771.**

1. **at the Brasils** (p. 272, para. 19)—The Government of Madras informed Fort William that the *Morse* was left at Rio Janeiro (Brazil) and had lost two sets of top masts. *Public Department, Original Consultation*, 7 February 1771—A.

2. **General Letter per Mansfield** (p. 273, para. 30)—The reference here and in the subsequent paragraphs is to the *Letter from the Court of Directors*, 23 January 1770.

3. **our Letter by the Grafton** (p. 280, para. 75)—See *Public General Letter to the Court of Directors*, 25 January 1770, paras 98-100.

4. **12 (27) February 1771** (p. 284)—The *General Letter from the Court of Directors*, 28 August 1771, para. 48, gives the date of the postscript as 27 February 1771, and this appears to be correct.

**No. 21—31 March 1771.**

1. **Bysagee Pundit** (p. 287, para. 4)—Visaji Krishna Binivale and Ramachandra Ganesh were appointed by Madhava Rao I Peshwa as commanders of the Maratha forces for the capture of Delhi.

**No. 22—2 April 1771.**

1. **your letter per ship Mansfield** (p. 292, para. 10)—The reference here and in the subsequent paragraphs is to the *Letter from the Court of Directors*, 23 March 1770.

2. **what we wrote you per ship Verelst** (p. 293, para. 11)—See *Public General Letter to Court*, 12 February 1771, para. 30.

**No. 24—30 August 1771.**

1. **Diergo Rayes** (p. 304, para. 7)—The reading given in *Public Department, Original Consultation*, 10 August 1771, No. 8, is Diego Royes.

2. **Scindy** (p. 305, para. 18)—The Company established a factory at Tatta in Sind, about 50 miles east of Karachi, in 1758. It was withdrawn in 1775. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, vol. XXIII, p. 255.

3. **Honorable Mr. Frederick Stuart** (p. 308, para. 39)—Fourth son of the Earl of Bute, the well known English politician who was the teacher of George III and also his adviser for a time. Stuart had been appointed a writer on the Bengal establishment. L. S. Sutherland, *The East India Company in Eighteenth Century Politics*, p. 299; Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 179.

4. **Captain Swinney Toone** (p. 309, para. 50)—One of the copies has Swiney Tome.

**No. 25—31 August 1771.**

1. **dispatch of the Lord Mansfield** (p. 311, para. 1)—The reference here and in the subsequent paragraphs is to the *Select Committee Letter to the Court of Directors*, 31 March 1771.

2. **on the 17th April** (p. 313, para. 9)—One of the copies has 15th April.

3. **the officer who commanded them** (p. 314, para. 10)—Shah Alam's officer referred to here was one "Hussienooden Khan". *Select Committee Proceedings*, vol. 18, 27 August 1771, p. 286.

4. **Mussepher Jung, the grandson and heir of Ahmed Cawn** (p. 314, para. 10)—The reference here is to Diler Himmat Khan, known by his title Muzaffar Jang. He was the son and successor of Ahmad Khan and not his grandson as stated here.

5. **We acquainted you per Europa** (p. 315, para. 13)—The reference is to the *Select Committee letter to the Court of Directors*, 18 January 1771, para. 5.

6. **18th ultimo** (p. 316, para. 15)—One of the copies has "15th ultimo".

**No. 26—15 November 1771.**

1. **The Director and Council at Houghley** (p. 318, para. 12)—The Dutch Director and Council at Hughly. *Public Department, Original Consultation*, 2 November 1771-A.

2. **Lieutenant John Osborne** (p. 318, para. 16)—"Tried by Court Martial in 1770 for 'unmannerly, unmilitary and disrespectful behaviour' to Lt. Col. James Morgan and suspended from the service for one month. Osborne thereupon called out Col. Morgan and shot him in the hip-bone, after which he left Dinapore without leave and went to Patna, and ultimately to Calcutta, whence he was sent back to Patna under escort". Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 436.



3. **Major Lylliman** (p. 320, para. 26)—James Lillyman (1732-74). Architect of Fort William, Calcutta, 1770. Raised to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Chief Engineer, Bengal, in succession to Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell on 17 December 1772. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 51.

4. **Mr. Lewis Mestayer** (p. 323, para. 48)—Lieutenant. Dismissed on 27 November 1770. Restored on 8 January 1777 to rank as Captain, and retired as Chief Engineer, Bengal, in 1786. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 284.

**No. 27—15 November 1771.**

1. **Sicca rupees 3,62,692** (p. 330, para. 12)—One of the copies has “*sicca* rupees 3,62,696”.

2. **Chandelah** (p. 331, para. 16)—The identity of the place is not clear. It appears from the letter addressed by the Fort William Council to the Controlling Council at Murshidabad that the French wanted to shift their factory at Jugdea to “a spot of ground named Chandela” “in the Chowdagong Pergunnah”, and some peons belonging to the Company’s factory at Luckypore, Noakhali, prevented them from taking possession of the land. *Public Department Proceedings*, vol. 37, 14 March 1771, pp. 12-15.

3. **Admiral Harland** (p. 333, para. 30)—On 18 October 1770 Sir Robert Harland was promoted to be Rear-Admiral of the Blue, and in March 1771 he went out to the East Indies as Commander in Chief, a post which he held till 1775. *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. VIII, p. 1275.

**No. 30—10 January 1772.**

1. **the charge . . . against Mr. Cornelius Goodwyn** (p. 339, para. 13)—Alexander Jephson and his wife were arrested under a warrant of the Mayor’s Court to prevent their quitting the country without satisfying their creditors, and later on, after they had given satisfaction to the court, they were allowed to return to Europe. *Letter to the Court of Directors*, 14 March 1768, para. 20, Sinha, *op. cit.*, p. 390-1. In a memorial to the Court of Directors Jephson alleged that, in the course of the proceedings of his suit before the Mayor’s Court, his counsel had contended that its proceedings were contrary to the laws of England, and, in reply, Godwin, the Mayor, who was presiding, had said “that they had nothing to do with the laws of England there, that the laws of England were never made for them, and . . . that he would not so much as hear the laws of England named while he sat upon that bench.” *Public Department, Original Consultation*, 3 January 1772, No. 1(a).

2. **6th June 1771** (p. 340, para. 16)—One of the copies has “8th June 1771”.

3. **3rd October 1771** (p. 340, para. 17)—One of the copies has “23rd October 1771”.

4. **5th of September . . . . CRs. 2,85,674-12-3** (p. 341, para. 25)—One of the copies has 15th of September . . . CRs. 6,99,793-7-10.

**No. 31—10 January 1772.**

1. **your General Letter by the Lord Mansfield** (p. 354, para. 12)—The reference is to *Public General Letter from Court*, 23 March 1770.

2. **rupees** (p. 355, para. 15)—There was a bewildering variety of rupee coins in circulation at the time, which greatly varied in value—Calcutta *sicca*, Arcot, *dasamasa*, *vaziri*, etc. To secure clearness and uniformity in the Company's accounts the value of these coins was expressed in terms of a standard rupee which was known as the "current" or "*chalani*" rupee. This "current" rupee was not a minted coin, but a coin recognised for purposes of accounts only; it was a measure of value, not a medium of exchange. The rate at which rupee coins were exchanged depended on their silver content; their relative value may be gleaned from the table at pp. 52-60 of Prinsep's *Useful Tables*. From the *General Journal relating to the Accounts of the Bengal Presidency, 1763-64 (Finance Department—Miscellaneous)* it is seen that some of these coins were accredited in the Company's accounts as follow:—

100 *sicca* rupees (Calcutta, Murshidabad and Surat)=116 current rupees.

100 *dasamasa* rupees=108 current rupees.

100 Arcot rupees=108 current rupees.

Further, the moneychangers of the time had developed a convention by which a coin was supposed to have lost a certain proportion of its intrinsic value for every year of its circulation without any regard to the *actual* reduction in value. A fresh newly minted coin was called *sicca*, and a coin in the third and later years of its circulation was known as *sanwat* or corruptly *sonaut*. For instance, 100 newly minted Murshidabad *sicca* rupees were equivalent to 116 current rupees; after a year's circulation their value came down to 113; and in the third year of circulation and *thereafter* their value was 111. A similar rule was applied in respect of other *sicca* rupees.

Very often the term rupee is used in the correspondence without any qualification and the type of rupee that is meant has to be inferred, as far as is possible, from the context. In the present case the reference is presumably to Murshidabad *sicca*.

3. **Gundas and three cowries** (p. 355, para. 15)—*Gundas* and *cowries* were small change subsidiary to rupee: 4 *cowries*=1 *ganda*; 20 *gandas*=1 anna; 16 annas=1 rupee. This system of valuation was used in respect of rupee coins in *actual circulation* in the country, *viz.*, *sicca*, Arcot, *vaziri*, etc. The "current" rupee, which was a rupee of account only, had a different system of subsidiary coinage, namely, 12 pies=1 anna; 16 annas=1 rupee. While this may be taken to have been the *general* practice we do come across rare instances wherein "current" rupee is expressed in terms of *gandas* and *cowries*, and *sicca* and other rupees in terms of annas and pies. There are also instances where the term pie is used to indicate the value of *ganda*. For instance, on p. 228 we have the following statement: "one crore fifty-two laaks forty-five thousand nine hundred seventy-nine rupees, fifteen annas, twelve pice (Sa. Rs. 1,52,45,979-15-12)". Here twelve pies should be taken to be 12 *gandas* because (1) the account refers to revenue; (2) the value is given in terms of *sicca* rupees; and (3) if the value of the pie referred to is 1/12 of an anna the highest figure in the pie column could be only 11.

Again, while the two systems of subsidiary coinage referred to above were the ones most commonly used, there were other types of small change.

differing in nomenclature and value, which were current in the country:

- (A) 4 *cowries*=1 *ganda*; 20 *gandas*=1 *pahan*; 4 *pahans*=1 *anna*; 4 *annas*=1 *kahan* or  $\frac{1}{4}$  rupee.

(Hobson-Jobson based on Milburn's *Oriental Commerce*.)

- (B) 4 *cowries*=1 *ganda*; 20 *gandas*=1 *pan*; 5 *pans*=1 *anna*. James Prinsep, *Useful Tables illustrative of the Coins, Weights and Measures of British India*, Ed. by Edward Thomas, p. 2. In this connection see Prof. R. P. Patwardhan, 'A Problem about Revenue Accounts in the 18th Century', *Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings*, Vol. XXX (1954), Part II, pp. 94-7, which throws light on the confused state of currency of the time.

In view of the above, the actual value of subsidiary coins referred to in the correspondence should be taken with due regard to the context and other considerations, making allowance for a margin of error.

No. 36—9 March 1772.

1. **98 Surat rupees** (p. 364, para. 19)—One of the copies has "90 Surat rupees".

2. **raise** (p. 367, para. 35)—One of the copies has "waive".

3. **Pertenaraine, the Goorka Rajah** (p. 367, para. 37)—The reference is to Prithwi Narayan Sah, king of the small state of "Gurkha", who brought the whole of Nepal under his rule and established the state of Nepal as we know it to-day.

4. **the right which it plainly appeared we had to them** (p. 368, para. 40)—This is an episode in the history of Tirhut zamindari or modern Darbhanga State. From very early times the Rajas of Mackwanpore, Nepal, were paying tribute to the Rajas of Tirhut in respect of certain border *mahals* which they had annexed. The Rajas of Tirhut were themselves tributaries of the Mughal Empire, coming within the jurisdiction of the *Subah* of Bihar; and Bihar passed under the control of the Company after the battle of Buxar. Meanwhile Mackwanpore was conquered by the Gurkha Raja Prithwi Narayan, the founder of the modern state of Nepal. The discussion here refers to the desirability or otherwise of risking a war with Prithwi Narayan for the recovery of the border *mahals* of Tirhut which had passed under his control with the other possessions of the Raja of Mackwanpore. The Fort William Council decided against going to war, but held that Prithwi Narayan should be asked to pay the customary tribute to the Tirhut zamindar. *Public Department Proceedings*, vol. 37, 10 August 1771, pp. 147-51; L. N. Ghose, *The Modern History of Indian Chiefs, Rajas, Zamindars &c.*, Part II, pp. 440-3.

5. **Muckund Sing, the Rajah of Ramgur** (p. 368, para. 42)—He appears to have been dispossessed of the estate, which was then given to his relative Tej Singh. *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, vol. XIII, p. 89.

6. **your orders by the Lord Holland** (p. 370, para. 52)—The reference is to *Public General Letter from Court*, 10 April 1771, para. 52.

## No. 37—26 March 1772.

1. **entire defeat to the Rhohillahs and Affghans** (p. 388, para. 9)—The battle against the Rohillas headed by Zabita Khan was fought at Chandighat, just below Hardwar, U.P. on 23 February 1772. Jadunath Sarkar, *Fall of the Mughal Empire*, vol. III, pp. 50-1.

## No. 38—31 March 1772.

1. **V.Rs. 1,556-1-2** (p. 395, para. 34)—One of the copies has “*sicca* rupees 1,556-1-2”.

2. **Mr. Thomas Plastow** (p. 397, para. 10)—Mr. Thomas Plaiston in the other copy.

## No. 41—13 April 1772.

1. **our letter by the Rochford** (p. 401, para. 5)—The reference is to *Public General Letter to Court*, 9 March 1772, para. 94.

## No. 42—13 April 1772.

1. **address . . . by the ship Asia** (p. 404, para. 1)—The reference is to *Secret Letter to Court*, 10 January 1772.

## No. 47—5 September 1772.

1. **your commands** (p. 409, para. 3)—*Public General Letter from the Court of Directors*, 28 August 1771, paras. 18-22. Also, *Letter from the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors to Warren Hastings*, 28 August 1771.

2. **Davies [Dacres]** (p. 410, para. 9)—The Ms. has Davies. But this is a mistake. Para 7 of the letter says that the Committee was composed of only members of the Fort William Council, but no person by name Davies was a member of the Council at this time. The reference is clearly to Philip Milner Dacres. The Committee was constituted by the Controlling Committee of Revenue at its meeting held at Fort William on 1 May 1772, and consisted of the following persons:—Warren Hastings (President), Samuel Middleton, Philip Milner Dacres, James Lawrell, John Graham. D. N. Banerjee, *op. cit.*, p. 476.

3. **Munnee Begum** (p. 410, para. 13)—Munni Begam, wife of Mir Jafar. She acted as regent till May 1775 when she was removed from that post.

4. **from the year 1174** (p. 411, para. 18)—The era used here is presumably the Bengal era, and 1174 of the Bengal era is equivalent to 1767-8.

5. **letter per Lapwing** (p. 412, para. 19)—The reference is to *Public General Letter from the Court of Directors*, 28 August 1771.

6. **24th January** (p. 412, para. 20)—The reference is to postscript dated 24 January 1772, *Public General Letter to the Court of Directors*, 10 January 1772.

7. **a late publication by Mr. Bolts** (p. 413, para. 22)—See note “Captains Parker and Lieutenant Vertue”, *Letters from Court*, 23 March 1770, note no. 19. Bolts in his *Considerations on Indian Affairs*, Appendix No. XXXIII, cited the case of Parker as an instance of the arbitrary and highhanded conduct of the Fort William authorities.



## No. 49—3 November 1772.

1. **your commands . . . . by the *Lapwing*** (p. 421, para. 13)—The reference here and in the subsequent paragraphs is to *Public General Letter from the Court of Directors*, 28 August 1771.

2. **Ranny Bowanny** (p. 425, para. 28)—Rani Bhawani of the Nator Raja family was in charge of the management of the family estate for over half a century after the death of her husband. Her many benefactions have made her name even to this day a household word in Bengal. L. N. Ghose, *op. cit.*, p. 371.

## No. 50—10 November 1772.

1. **we could then furnish you** (p. 431, para. 1)—Presumably the reference here is to the *Letter to the Court of Directors*, 18 September 1772, which is referred to in para. 33. This letter, however, is not available either in the National Archives of India or in the Commonwealth Relations Office, London.

2. **dispatch of the *Colebrooke*** (p. 431, para. 2)—The reference is to the *Select Committee Letter to the Court of Directors*, 14 April 1772.

3. **Out letter by the *Rochford*** (p. 431, para. 3)—See *Select Committee Letter to the Court of Directors*, 26 March 1772, para. 9.

4. **Monsieur Sanson** (p. 435, para. 27)—A French military adventurer in charge of the Vazir's artillery. Srivastava, *op. cit.*, p. 339.

## No. 51—10 November 1772.

1. **Board of Inspection** (p. 437, para. 6)—See note on "Committee of Inspection", *Letters to Court*, 25 January 1770, note no. 6.

2. **Captain Rennell** (p. 440, para. 25)—Major James Rennell (1742-1830) of the Engineers, well-known for his surveys of the province of Bengal and regarded as the father of Indian geography. He was Surveyor General from 8 January 1767 till he left India in March 1777. Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 631.

3. **letters per *Grafton*** (p. 440, para. 30)—The reference is to *Public General Letter from the Court of Directors*, 25 March 1772.

## No. 52—10 November 1772.

1. **In my last** (p. 443, para. 1)—The reference is to the letter of Warren Hastings to the Court of Directors, 1 September 1772.

## No. 58—12 December 1772.

1. **Major Morrison**—(p. 462)—John Morrison, soldier and adventurer. Joined the Bengal Army in 1768 as Major. Resigned his commission on 17 December 1771 and entered the service of the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam as "General and C-in-C. of the Great Mogul's forces" and "Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary" to George III. His request to the Fort William Council to be recognised in these capacities and given facilities to proceed to England was turned down on the ground that Morrison was still His Majesty's subject and in the employ of the East India Company. But, in 1773 he went to England on a mission from Shah Alam to secure British support to defend his throne at Delhi in return for certain concessions. *Select Committee Proceedings*, 12 December 1772; Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part III, p. 339.

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# I N D E X

**A**BERCROMBIE, Capt. Burnet, of the *Grenville*, 63.

*Abwab* (taxes which were imposed by the Muhammadan govt in addition to the regular assessment in land), xxxv, 422.

Accounts, 154, 277; mode of dealing with *paikars*, 18-9; irregularities re. construction of cantonment at Berhampore, 23-4, 25; of revenue and expenditure, 41, 59; Court's observations on, 45-7; estimate of funds for China investment, 66; of Clive's Fund for Military Invalids, 68-9; of H.M.'s Squadron in East Indies, 72-3; of shipping, 79; of Society of Trade, 103, 159-60; instructions re., 103-6, 373; auditing of, 154, 159; treasury statements, 189, 195; received from the Resdt at the Durbar, 228; *see also* Bills of Exchange; Treasury.

Achmet Cawn, *see* Ahmad Khan Bangash.

Achmuty, Capt. —, *see* Ahmuty, Capt. Arthur.

Achmuty, Actmooty, Maj. —, *see* Ahmuty, Maj. Arthur Forbes.

Administration, E.I. Coy's, of justice, li-lvii; disappointment at the general working, 122-3; economy urged, 155, 166.

*Admiral Watson* (ship), 185.

Affleck (Aflick), Capt. Philip, question of his bills of exchange, 126-8, 136, 437.

Afghans, *see* Pathans.

Agra, xxi, 205, 293.

Ahmad Khan Bangash (Achmet Cawn, Ahmed Cawn, Ahmed Cawn Bunguish), Pathan Chief, neutrality of, 202; activities against Marathas, 257; mutiny in troops of, 266-7; dies, 314.

Ahmad Shah Abdali, xix, 261.

Ahmuty (Achmuty), Capt. Arthur, reinstated, 150, 215, 459; note on, 478.

Ahmuty (Achmuty, Actmooty), Maj. Arthur Forbes, reinstated, 97-8, 183, 216, 386; note on, 478.

Aigoin, John Peter, reeler of silk, 15.

*Alcion* (snow), 270.

Alderman, nature of the office of, 29.

Aldersey, William, Member of Board, 110, 215, 290, 310, 324, 327, 349, 352, 358, 360, 383, 386, 396, 398, 403, 404, 405, 407, 415, 416, 430, 450, 454, 455, 457; of Secret Committee, 303, 333, 356, 400; of Select Committee, 316, 357, 390, 406, 436; applies for redress, 347-8; Member of Committee of Enquiry, 469.

Aleppo, Syria, 21, 468.

Alexander, Claud, writer, 137, 439.

Alexander, James, 6, 51; Member of Board, 28, 61, 244, 250, 255, 264, 290, 301, 316, 438; dispute with Lloyd re. lead, 92,

377; of Select Committee, 110, 269, 285; Chief of Murshidabad, 307; Resdt of Bihar, 329; on trial of Capt. Mackenzie, 349-50, 392-4; Chief of Patna, 377; resigns, 359.

Alexander, Robert, free merchant, 359.

Aligarh (Coal, Coil, Cowle, Koil), U.P., xxi, 205, 234, 454.

Allage Cawn, *see* Muhammad Elich Khan.

Allahabad, xviii, xix, xxvi, 288, 336, 356; cession to Vazir, xxviii, 312-3, 334; to be exchanged for Benares, 87; removal of magazine from, 193-4, 200, 234; reinforcement of garrison of, 264, 268, 389; Marathas demand cession of, 433; treaty of, 471, 481.

Allen, Capt. John, of the *Clive*, 64, 74, 350, 382, 383, 398; treasury certificates for, 352, 360.

Allen, Rev. Dr John, 360.

Allen, Mathew, surgeon, resigns, 345.

Alleyn, Henry, Resdt at Cuttack, 236.

*Amalnama* (document giving authority to manage property or take possession thereof), xxxv, 442.

*Amazon* (schooner), xxx, 235, 333.

*Amazon* (snow), 236, 355.

Amber Islands, near the coast of Mauritius, 133.

Amethysts, registration of, 79.

*Amils* (collectors of revenue), xxxiii, xxxv, 391; discontinuation of office of, 147; oppressions by, 228, 329.

Ammunition, for Coy's settlements in the East Indies, 134.

Amrit Singh (Aument Sing), Raja, *Diwan* of Muhammad Riza Khan, to be arrested, 406-7.

Anderson, James, 461; Surgeon General to army, 106, 182.

Andrews, J., Chief of Vizagapatam, 216.

Angus, Capt. James, of the *Lord Mansfield*, 300.

*Ankerwyke* (ship), 55, 63, 103, 174, 191, 250, 254.

—Capt., *see* Bassett, Capt. William; Ross, Capt. A.

*Anson* (ship), 10, 63, 76, 114, 119, 133, 136, 174, 175, 189, 195, 197, 198, 201, 206, 207.

—Capt., *see* Chick, Capt. Edward Lord; Lennox, Capt. John.

Aplin, Benjamin, writer, 91.

Apothecaries Hall, London, medicines from, 178.

Arbitration, steps to improve mode of, 369.

Arcot, Nawab of, *see* Muhammad Ali Khan.

Armenians, the, 29, 176, 208; removal from Oudh, 32, 296.

Arms, illicit trade in, 106; for Coy's settlements in the East Indies, 134.

Army, E.I. Coy's, appointments and promotions, 5, 95-8; sepoy, 25, 97; recruits, 32, 99-100, 153, 170, 191, 216, 249; payment of gratuity, 33; economy urged, 34-5, 59, 154-5, 166, 278; powers of Presdt and Council re., 35; artillery, 35, 182, 378; Nawab of Bengal's donation to, 36, 59, 86, 380, 472; relief measures for disabled soldiers, 36-7, 279, 310; bullocks for, 37-41, 391; military code, 46; commission on revenue to officers of, 50, 401; mutiny over double *batta*, 97-8; allowances of officers, 100; exemption of tax on provisions at army camps, 100-1, 377; issue of commissions, 135; prohibition on liquors in, 145; position of engineers in, 152, 297; officers not to proceed to England to represent their grievances, 152-3; Agent for Clothing of Recruits, 183; *see also* Cadets; Clive's Fund for Military Invalids; Commander in Chief; Military Committee; Military Stores; *Pargana* Sepoys; Quarter Master General.

Asafud-Daulah (Mirza Amany), Nawab Vazir of Oudh, marriage of, 261; note on, 482.

*Asal Jama* (original assessment), xxxv.

Ashburner, Thomas, 157.

*Asia* (ship), 64, 73, 74, 162, 163, 326, 327, 343, 344, 345, 346, 349, 350, 357, 358, 359, 362, 383, 392, 404, 460; damaged, 317.

—Capt., *see* Preston, Capt. Robert.

*Asl* (original or established rate of assessment without extra cess), 422.

Assam, trade with, xxxvi, xxxix, 80.

*Astrea* (ship), 243.

Aubert, William, Supdt of Raw Silk Investment, 67, 112, 321; appointment, 8, 14-5, 16; dies, 305-6, 309.

Auditor, E.I. Coy's, 154, 159.

Aument Sing, *see* Amrit Singh.

*Aumil*, *see* *Amils*.

*Aurangs* (places where goods are manufactured), xxxvii, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 81, 105, 188, 211, 247, 273, 292, 306, 385.

—Committee of, 20; note on, 468.

*Auriol* (ship), 450.

*Aurora* (H.M.'s frigate), 6, 204, 206, 278, 467.

Aurora Broadcloth, sale of, 365.

Austin, Hugh, writer, 137, 158, 439.

Avass, Gregory, 363, 364.

Axworthy, Serjt John, 282.

**B**ABER, Edward, 190; part in Bolts's case, 30, 300, 344; Resdt at Midnapore, 218; Sheriff, 300; Secy of Board, 301.

Badalgachhi (Belcootchy), Rajshahi Dist., Bengal, 212; note on, 479.

*Bafta* (a kind of calico), 17; for Balam-bangan, 53.

Bahar, *see* Bihar.

Bailie, Capt. Anneslie, not to be reinstated, 215-6.

Bailie, James, surgeon of the *Triton*, 442.

Baine, James, 323.

Baines, Joseph, chaplain at Fort Marlbro', 92, 278, 359.

*Bajra* (heavy spoon-shaped boat), 41, 75, 105.

Baker, Capt. William, of the *Cruttenden*, 63.

*Bakhsh-Bandar* (custom house), 429.

*Bakhshi* (civil paymaster), 105, 297; fraudulent conduct of, 25; accounts of, 46, 126.

Balambangan Island (Ballambangan), north of Borneo, 343; instructions re. occupation of, 52-3, 115, 187, 362; investment for, 304-5, 438.

Baldcock, David, 2nd Officer of the *Verelst*, 283.

Balwant Singh, Ra'a of Benares, asked by Coy to strengthen his forces, xxii; removal of Armenians from his territories, 32, 296; exchange of his territories for Kora and Allahabad, 87; succession to his zamindari, 129, 225, 227, 240-1, 261; dies, 227, 240; note on, 481.

*Band* (season in which silk-worm eggs are hatched and cocoons are gathered), 18, 19, 20, 178, 247; note on, 477.

*Band-o-bast* (settlement of revenue), 330.

Bankipore (Bankypoor, Bankypore), Patna Dist., Bihar, 188, 203, 298; cantonments, 105.

Barabulla, near the mouth of the Hooghly, 413.

Barckley, John, 5th Officer of the *Ponsborne*, 325.

Barharia Fort (Burrarea), Saran Dist., Bihar, expedition to, 368.

Barker, Gen. Sir Robert, 213, 235, 279, 285, 294, 342, 377, 403, 441; Member of Select Committee, xxii, 110, 234, 436, 455; with the Nawab Vazir of Oudh, xxvii, xxviii, 268, 286, 287, 312, 213, 214, 356, 387, 388-9; commission on revenues, 50; C.-in-C., Bengal, 50-1, 467; censured, 94-5, 399-400, 431, 435; Member of Board, 110, 296, 430, 454; on cantonments at Berhampore, 145, 275; to dissuade Shah Alam from joining the Marathas, 289, 311; Shah Alam's gift to, 308, 319; on trade with Oudh, 366-7; on artillery corps, 378; Member of Secret Committee, 450, 457; note on, 471.

Barkley, Capt. Charles, of the *Pacifick*, 63.

Bartlett, Capt. Barnaby, to be Dy Master Attendant, 77-8.

Barton, —, Alderman, 185.

Barton, James, factor, 148.

Barton, William, Resdt at Lakshmipur, 217.

Barwell, Richard, Member of Board, 110, 181, 189, 191, 195, 209, 219, 232, 233, 245, 250, 323, 340, 359, 360, 383, 386, 396, 398, 403, 404, 405, 407, 415, 416, 430, 454; Resdt at Rampur-Boalia, pardoned, 17, 185; to be Chief of Dacca, 166; Storekeeper of the New Works, 277; Member, Murshidabad Council, 308; of Secret Committee, 361, 400, 450; note on, 468.

- Basalat Jang (Bassalut Jung), 225 ; note on, 480.
- Basra, Iraq, 21 ; goods for, 64, 134, 169.
- Bassett, Capt. William, of the *Ankerwyke*, 63.
- Bathoe, John, Sub-Export-Warehouse-Keeper, 190 ; Resdt at Malda, 211.
- Bathurst, Charles, 299, 382, 395.
- Bathurst, Robert, writer, 137, 439.
- Batta* (rate of exchange ; discount), lviii, 184, 276, 280, 307, 318, 355, 380 ; on *sanwats*, 89, 181.
- Batta* (extra pay or allowances), 38, 156, 215.
- Bauleah, (Beauleah), *see* Rampur-Boalia.
- Bawdwan, Mrs Mary, pension stopped, 386.
- Bay of Bengal, 7 ; survey of, 281 ; note on, 467.
- Baynes, Robert, cadet, 151.
- Baze Jama* (revenue derived from fines, fees, cesses etc., most of which are now abolished), xxxv ; abolished, 422, 451.
- Bazett, John, writer, 137.
- Becher, Richard, Member of Board, 61, 119, 215, 250, 301, 339 ; to be Presdt of Board, 27, 244 ; Collector General, 43, 276-329 ; Member of Select Committee, 255, 264 ; to be dismissed from membership of Board, 109-10 ; resigns, 265, 285.
- Beerbhom, Beerboom, *see* Birbhum.
- Belcootchy, *see* Badalgachhi.
- Beldar* (a labourer employed in digging or excavation), 181.
- Bell, John, free merchant, 251.
- Benares, 184, 287, 387, 455 ; succession to, xxviii, 129, 227, 240-1 ; factory accounts, 45 ; Marathas demand cession of, 433 ; question of cession to the Coy, 471 ; restored to Vazir, 481.
- Bencoolen, *see* Fort Marlbro'.
- Bengal, famine in, xviii, xxxii, 418-9 ; revenue administration in xxxv, 417, 421, 428 ; trade of, xxxviii, judicial organisation in, lii ; currency reforms in, lvii, lviii ; recruits for, 32, 153, 191, 249 ; goods for, 64, 65, 134, 135, 141, 165, 168 ; and *passim*.
- Nawab, divested of power, xl ; his sepoy not to be engaged for revenue collection, 369-70 ; army donation by, 308 ; *see also* Sarfaraz Khan ; Jafar Ali Khan ; Najm-ud-Daulah ; Saifud-Daulah ; Mubarak-ud-Daulah.
- Presdt and Governor, *see* President, Fort William Board.
- Bengough, Edmund, surgeon of the *Lord Holland*, 351.
- Bennet, G., Acting Commissary of Stores, 13.
- Berguer, Anthony, payment to his family, 320-1.
- Berhampore (Berampoor), Midnapore Dist., Bengal, 188, 349, 392, 402 ; construction of cantonments at, lvii, 23-6, 108, 145, 275, 297, 299, 323, 373, 439 ; note on, 467.
- Berquire, A., Coy's agreement with, 309.
- Berrie, William, payment of bond, 44.
- Berrow, Capt. Edward, 163.
- Betel-nut, 159 ; trade in, 21, 103, 121, 249, 348-9 ; duty on, 395.
- Bevan, Thomas, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.
- Bhabani Mitra (Bowanny Metre), 374.
- Bhaturia, Rajshahi Dist., Bengal, 479.
- Bhawani Devi, Rani of Natore, land revenue settlement with, 425 ; note on, 488.
- Bhim Singh, Rana of Gohad, 479.
- Bhutan, trade with, xxxvi, xxxix, 80.
- Bigby, Patrick, purser of the *Asia*, 327.
- Biggs, John, 323.
- Bihar (Bahar), revenues of, 42, 43, 188, 328-9, 355, 430 ; effects of famine, 192 ; claims of Raja Prithvi Narayan to *parganas* of, 367-8 ; and *passim*.
- Resdt, *see* Alexander, James.
- Supdt of Revenues, commission on *Diwani* revenues to, 44.
- Bildar*, *see* *Beldar*.
- Bill of Exchange, l, 6, 28, 45, 52-2, 66, 67, 69-70, 72-3, 75-6, 162, 190-1, 253, 281, 283, 341, 364 ; infringement by Board of Court's powers re., 60 ; instructions re., 126-8, 131 ; drawn by paymasters of brigades, 183 ; *see also* Treasury Certificates.
- Birbhum, revenue settlement of, 411, 428, 429.
- Bird, John, 324.
- Bird, Robert Smith, surgeon of the *Greenwich*, 414.
- Bishnupur (Bissenpoor), Bengal, revenue settlement of, 429.
- Bithur (Bittoor), Kanpur Dist., U.P., captured by the Marathas, 263, 266.
- Blackerie, Miss Eliza, 69.
- Blake, John Bradly, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.
- Blundell, William, 4th Officer of the *Greenwich*, 415.
- Board of Commissioners for Affairs of India, 4, 93, 206, 228, 290, 295, 307 ; duties of, 10, 13, 21, 42, 239 ; protest against appointment of, 189 ; note on, 467.
- Board of Inspection, formation of, 437 ; note on, 488.
- Board of Revenue, formation of, xxxiv, 417 ; accounts of, 418.
- Boddam, Charles, Director of E.I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 164, 167, 170.
- Bogle, George, Alderman, 280 ; to enquire into the Franco-Danish dispute, 449.
- Boid Keru, *Diwan* of the Raja of Morung, 480.
- Boisquenay —, Capt. of *La Marquise de Ceuvron*, 243.
- Bolackadass, Bolackidass, Bolackydass, *see* Bulakidas Seth.
- Bolts, William, Alderman, 131, 151, 413 ; dismissal, lvi, 29-32 ; passage money for, 3 ; transmission of papers relating to, 47-8, 61-2, 297-8, 300-2, 34- ; reinstated, 61-2, 116, 308 ; recovery of dues, 186, 252 ; secret trade by, 279, 294, 296, 300 ; note on, 467.
- Bombay, silk for, lvi ; saltpetre for, lviii, 247-8 ; recruits for, 32, 153 ; mili-



- tary stores at, 33 ; goods for, 64, 134, 168-9 ; and *passim*.  
 —C.-in-C., *see* Wedderburn, Brig.-Gen.—  
 —Govt of, remittances to, lix, 59, 179, 249, 274, 364, 390-1, 438, 451 ; Maj.-Gen. Coote's position in, 4 ; commission on *Diwani* revenues to employees of, 43 ; to reconnoitre Madagascar, 60.  
 —Governor, *see* Crommelin, Charles.  
 Bonwicke, James, Dy Custom Master, 153.  
 Booth, Benjamin, Director of E.I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 76, 109, 164, 167, 170.  
 Bosanquet, Richard, Director of E.I. Coy. 6, 52, 131, 132, 138, 167.  
 Bougainville, de —, Capt. of *La Boudaine*, 243.  
 Boughton, C.W., Asst Secy to Board's Select Committee, 30, 300, 301.  
 Boulton, Henry Crabb, Director of E.I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 109, 164, 167, 170 ; Member of Secret Committee, 55, 165.  
 Bourbon and Mauritius islands, off south-east coast of Africa, French activities at, 58, 70-1, 264, 315-6, 355, 435.  
 —Governor, *see* Roches, Chevalier de le.  
 Bowanny Metre, *see* Bhabani Mitra.  
 Bowers, John Hope, 1st Officer of the *Nassau*, 442.  
 Bowey, William, Dy Master Attendant, salary and allowances, 130-1, 278.  
 Boyce, Edward, 4th Officer of the *Lord North*, 351.  
 Boyce, William, 299.  
 Boyes, George, 1st Officer of the *Asia*, 326.  
 Bradshaw, James, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.  
 Brangere, Du Fray de la, Capt. of *L' Ajax*, 243.  
 Brass, 180 ; ordnance of, 80.  
 Bricks, contract for, 370-2.  
 Bricola, Charles Francis, spinner of raw silk, 8-9.  
 Bridgewater (ship), 163.  
 Bright, George, Sheriff of Calcutta, 379.  
 Bristow, John, 52, 70.  
*Britannia* (ship), 79, 115, 116, 117, 174, 178, 326, 362.  
 —Capt., *see* Rous, Capt. Robert ; Swithin, Capt. James.  
*Britannia* (snow), 270-1, 363.  
*British King* (ship), 163, 165, 272.  
 —Capt., *see* Hoare, Capt. Daniel Griffiths.  
 Broadbent, Ensign James, 251 ; resigns, 233 ; restored, 151.  
 Broadcloth, sale of, 80 ; for Madras army, 321.  
 Broadhurst, Thomas, writer, 137, 439.  
 Broche, Anthony, reeler of silk, 15.  
 Bromfield, Capt. Philip, of the *Salisbury*, 63.  
 Brooke, Capt. Robert, services praised, 99.  
 Brookes, Henry, cadet, 54.  
 Broughton, Charles William, 344.  
 Brown,—, Chief Mate of the *St. Helena*, 176.  
 Brown,—, treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Free Masons, 395.  
 Brown, John, 32.  
 Brown, Richard, 265.  
 Brown, Robert, factor, 32.  
 Brown, Walter, 282.  
 Brown, William, 398.  
 Brown, William, 2nd Officer of the *Triton*, 442.  
 Browne, George, 190.  
 Browne, Richard, Asst Secy to Board, 217-8 ; dies, 308, 316, 339.  
 Bruce, Capt. Joseph, reinstated, 182.  
 Bryer, John, executor for Samuel Mesman, 32, 250.  
*Buckingham* (H. M.'s warship), 71, 317.  
 Buddal (Buddaul), east of Malda, Bengal, 91, 342.  
 Budge-Budge (Budge Budgeah), Twenty-four Parganas Dist., Bengal, xxx, 353 ; fortifications at, lvii, 277, 297, 300.  
*Budgerow*, *Budgrow*, *see* *Bajra*.  
 Budworth, William, 1st Officer of the *Prince of Wales*, 462.  
 Buggin, Capt. James, 118.  
*Bukshbunder*, *see* *Bakhsh-Bandar*.  
 Bulakidas Seth, payments to, 59, 85, 86, 102 ; note on, 472.  
 Bull, Serjt Benjamin, 251.  
 Bull, Capt. Samuel, of the *Duke of Grafton*, 133.  
 Bullion, 164 ; for Fort Marlbro' and China, 65 ; *see also* Specie.  
 Bullocks, contract for, 37-41, 306, 391 ; seized by the French, 204, 236.  
 Bulwan Sing, Bulwan Singh, Bulwand Sing, Bulwand Singh, Bulwend Sing, *see* Balwant Singh.  
*Bund*, *see* *Band*.  
 Burdwan, Bengal, 105, 215, 368, 420, 429 ; revenue administration, 42-3, 122, 181, 276, 329-30, 411, 428 ; salt farms at, 452.  
 —Raja, *see* Tilak Chand.  
 Burford, Thomas, private, 299.  
 Burfourd, Thomas, 233.  
 Burge, George, purser of the *Ponsborne*, 326.  
 Burges, Edward Eyre, writer, 28, 323.  
 Burghall, Capt. G., Chief Engineer at Fort Marlbro', 152 ; share in army donation, 36 ; recovery of advance from, 294.  
 Burguier, Anthony, reeler of silk, 15.  
 Burn, Rev. James, chaplain in Bengal, 28.  
 Burrampore, Burrumpore, *see* Berhampore.  
 Burrarea, *see* Barharia Fort.  
 Burrowes, Cosby, writer, 91.  
 Bussora, Bussorah, *see* Basra.  
*Bute* (ship), 7, 269, 272.  
 —Capt., *see* Maitland, Capt. Patrick.  
 Buxar, Shahbad Dist., Bihar, xix, 204, 264, 268.  
 Buxar Prize Money, Agent for, *see* Stuart, Charles.  
*Buxey*, *Buxies*, *see* *Bakhshi*.  
 Byrne, Robert Stratford, 461.  
 Bysagee Pundit, *see* Visaji Krishna Binivale.
- C**ABOOLEATS, *see* *Qabuliat*.  
 Cadets, 53, 99 ; service regulations, 35.  
 Cadman, George, of the *Asia*, 326.  
 Caissield, John, 282.

- Calcutta* (ship), 63, 77; damaged, 48-9.  
*Calcutta*, xvii, lvii, 105, 378-9, 428; security measures for, xxx, 89; courts, lv; investment at, 14, 21; restitution accounts of, 45, 471; private buildings in, 47; permanent residence of members of Board, 49, 50; jail, 274; hospital, 276-7; revenue administration 328, 330, 411, 417, 427; police, 460.  
 —Mayor, *see* Levett, John; Robinson, John, Saunderson, Robert.  
 —Sheriff, *see* Bright, George; Darell, Lionel.  
*Calcutta Council*, *Calcutta Government*, *see* Fort William Board.  
*Calcutta Lands*, *see* Twenty-four Parganas.  
*Call*, Ensign Thomas, practitioner engineer, 75.  
*Calloo Cawn*, *see* Kallu Khan.  
*Caltnell*, Henry, Supervisor of Dinajpur, recalled, 430.  
*Calvert*, Thomas, writer, 137, 439.  
*Cameron*, Mathew, 462.  
*Camlets* (Camblets), for China, 65.  
*Campbell*, Lt-Col. Sir Archibald, Chief Engineer, Bengal, 57, 151, 184, 297, 459; construction of docks, 22, 74-5, 79, 180-1, 309-10; in charge of Fort William fortifications, 88, 219, 369; services eulogised, 89; to resign, 319-20; to be member of Military Committee, 342; demands share of the commission on revenues, 377, 401; note on, 477.  
*Campbell*, Duncan, cadet, 138.  
*Campbell*, Thomas Dugald, writer, 91.  
*Canary Islands*, Atlantic Ocean, 158; wine from, 51.  
*Cannons*, *see* Guns.  
*Canton*, investment at, lviii, lix, 65, 66, 164, 169, 210-1, 214, 272, 305; members of Council at, 66, 169; *see also* China.  
*Caples*, Thomas, matross, 299.  
*Caramanassa*, *Carumnassah*, *see* Karamnasa.  
*Carnac*, Turner, 190.  
*Carr*, Capt. Robert, of the *Greenwich*, 118, 135, 414, 415, 442, 458.  
*Carter*, John, 233.  
*Cartier*, John, Presdt and Governor of Bengal, Member of Board's Select Committee, 110, 204, 206, 226, 229, 242, 263, 264, 269, 286, 289, 316, 336, 357, 390; admonished, 127, 437; member of Board's Secret Committee, 303, 333, 356, 400; resigns, 111, 116, 402, 435, 437; estimate of, lxi, lxii, and *passim*.  
*Casa*, Augustin Della, spinner, 8-9.  
*Castor Oil*, medicinal use of, 47.  
*Cater*, Joseph, Alderman, dismissal, 379.  
*Catlyn*, Capt.—, 213.  
*Cator*, Joseph, writer, 137; Alderman, 340.  
*Cator*, William, writer, 91.  
*Caverson*, Walter, 282.  
*Cazenove*, C., Danish Chief, 188.  
*Certificates*, *see* Treasury Certificates.  
*Chait Singh*, Raja of Benares, agreement with Vazir on his succession, 241, 261.  
*Chakla* (a large division of a country comprehending a number of *parganas*), 90, 22.  
*Chalmers*, William, writer, 91, 323.  
*Chambers*, Charles, Junr, Director of E. I. Coy, 62, 70, 71, 73, 76, 109.  
*Chamier*—, 211; dies, 212.  
*Champaran* (Champarun), Bihar, revenue from, 355.  
*Champion*, Lt-Col. A., 396; demands commission on revenues, 95, 183; Col., 216, 231; to help Shujaud-Daulah, 389, 455, 457.  
*Chandela* (Chandelah), 331; note on, 484.  
*Chandernagore*, 89, 126, 136, 249, 268, 380, 457; dispute re. French fortifications at, xxx, xxxi, 54, 56-7, 58, 255, 302, 449; pillage by Coy's soldiers, 213-4.  
*Chandighat*, Dehra Dun Dist., U.P., battle at, 487.  
*Chandler*, Henry John, writer, 137, 439.  
*Chapman*, Col. Charles, 95, 396, 457.  
*Charlton*, Francis, Member of Board, 147; commission on *Diwani* revenues to, 44.  
*Charmichael*, John, writer, 323.  
*Charters*—, writer, 182.  
*Charts*, *see* Maps and Plans.  
*Chassar* (cultivator), xxxvii, 19-20, 272, 293, 385, 438.  
*Chaukis* (stations of police or of customs), 84, 366; reduction in, xxxix, 83.  
*Chauth* (probably a fourth of a rupee or four annas per cent, on the value of the litigated property levied from the successful party in a law-suit or arbitration), 82, 257, 432.  
*Chevalier*, J. B., French Governor of Chandernagore, 21.  
*Chevr. du Berger* (French ship), 243.  
*Chhatak* (1/16th of a seer), 348.  
*Chicacole*, Ganjam Dist., Madras, 216.  
*Chick*, Capt. Edward Lord, of the *Anson*, reinstated, 10-1.  
*Chief Engineer*—  
 —Bengal, to be member of Committee for Defence, 50; *see also* Campbell, Lt-Col. Sir Archibald.  
 —Fort Marlbro', *see* Burghall, Capt.-Lt G.  
*Chief Warehouse-Keeper*, reprimanded, 17.  
*China*, 53, 179, 451; Spanish trade with, 194; *see also* Canton.  
*Chinsura*, Hooghly Dist., Bengal, trade in saltpetre at, 144.  
 —Dutch Governor, *see* Verdett, G. L.  
*Chittack*, *see* *Chhatak*.  
*Chittagong* (Islamabad), 17, 217, 270, 365, 420; buildings at, lvii, 144-5, 370; revenues, 42, 105, 276, 330; treasury, 43; trade in rice at, 368; note on, 468.  
 —Factory Chief, *see* Reed, J.  
*Chokeeys*, *Chokeys*, *see* *Chaukis*.  
*Chollet*, James, writer, 91, 323.  
*Cholmondley* (Cholmondly), Robert Francis, writer, 137, 439.  
*Choppa* (kind of silk cloth), 53.  
*Chorjah*, *see* Khurja.  
*Chout*, *Choute*, *see* *Chauth*.  
*Christie*, James, trade in Morung by, 9, 252.  
*Chuckla*, *Chuccla*, *see* *Chakla*.  
*Chunam* (lime), xxxi, 105, 212, 275, 341.  
*Chunar* (Chunar Gur, Chunargur), Mirzapur Dist., U.P., cession by Shujaud-

- Daulah to Coy, xxviii, 87, 288, 313, 334-5, 356, 387, 389, 434.
- Cicacole, *see* Chicacole.
- Circar, *see* Sarkar.
- Circar (*Soucar*), *see* *Sahukar*.
- Clarke, Lt—, resigns, 250.
- Clarke, Capt. Daniel, of the *Thames*, 63.
- Claud Aubert and Sons, 321.
- Clements, James, 34.
- Clements, John, 119.
- Clerici, Francis, spinner of raw silk, 112.
- Cleveland, Augustus, writer, 91, 323.
- Clifton, Capt.—, 342-3.
- Clive* (ship), 64, 74, 164, 317, 350, 352, 360, 382, 383, 390, 396, 397, 398, 400, 401, 406.
- Capt., *see* Allen, Capt. John.
- Clive, Robert, Lord, Presdt and Governor of Bengal, xvii, 25, 26, 33, 34, 51, 102; policy towards Indian powers, xix; certificates on his *jagir*, 28, 164, 167, 190, 251, 341; law-suits against, 35; note on, 476.
- Clive's Fund for Military Invalids, distribution and accounts, 67-9, 184; note on, 472.
- Cloth, investment in, 59-60, 64, 134, 168-9, 179, 365, 366; *see also* *Bafta*; *Ferret*; *Khasa*; *Muslin*; *Rumals*; *Silk*; *Taffeta*.
- Clout, Serjt James, 282.
- Clugh, Patrick, 190.
- Coal, old name of Aligarh, *q.v.*
- Coast and Bay, 3; note on, 467.
- Coates, John Due, drummer, 346.
- Cobham,—, contractor of bullocks for army, 39.
- Cockburn, James, Director of E. I. Coy, 70, 71, 72, 76, 109, 114, 116, 131, 132, 138, 162, 164, 167.
- Cofter, Garrat, Corporal, 414.
- Coggon, John, 3rd Officer of the *Colebrooke*, 382.
- Coil, old name of Aligarh, *q.v.*
- Coinage and Currency, 80, 187; regulations, lvii-lviii, 37, 89, 181, 306-7, 318; exchange rates, 6; *see also* *Bullion*; *Dollar*; *Gold*; *Mohur*; *Rupee*; *Silver*; *Specie*.
- Coir, for Fort Marlbro', 134.
- Coja Samey, *see* Samy, Khwajah.
- Cojamaul, Gregore, Khwajah, Armenian merchant, 32.
- Cole, Philip, cadet, appointed writer, 169.
- Colebrooke* (ship), 64, 74, 77, 94, 111, 135, 137, 138, 151, 338, 358, 363, 382, 383, 390, 400, 401, 402, 403, 405, 406, 407, 408, 417, 431, 436.
- Capt., *see* Morris, Capt. Arthur.
- Colebrooke, G., Chairman, Court of Directors, 6, 9, 52, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 76, 109, 164, 167, 170; Chairman, Secret Committee, 55, 165.
- Coleridge* (ship), 154.
- Collect, Valentine, 233.
- Colloghan and Son, 232.
- Colster, Mighel Van, 102.
- Colvil, Robert, 324.
- Comercolly, Commercolly, *see* Kumarkhali.
- Commander in Chief, Bengal, 40, 41, 100-1; salary, 5; exempted from residence at Calcutta, 49; to be member of Select Committee, 49, 108; to be member of Committee for Defence, 50; to be member of Secret Committee, 108; *see also* *Barker*, Gen. Sir Robert; *Coote*, Maj.-Gen. Eyre.
- Commissary of Stores, censured, 12; *see also* *Bennet*, G.; *Volham*,—.
- Commissioners, *see* Board of Commissioners for Affairs of India.
- Committee for Defence, composition, 50.
- Committee of Circuit (Committee of Revenue), 330, 411, 437, 440; appointed, xxxiv; on judicial administration, liii, liv, 427-8; members, 410, 421; proceedings, 417-8, 421-30; on silk investment, 438; settlement of Bengal districts, 417, 443, 447, 448, 453.
- Committee of Commerce, *see* Controlling Committee of Commerce.
- Committee of Inspection, *see* Secret Department of Inspection.
- Committee of Works, 23, 27, 275, 277, 342.
- Accountant, *see* Higginson, Alexander.
- Compton, Capt. Thomas, of the *Verelst*, 8-9, 265, 281, 304; enquiry into his conduct, 207-8.
- Conde',—, Capt. of *Le Necessaire*, 243.
- Conjubaharry Holdar, *see* Kunjabihari Haldar.
- Controlling Committee of Commerce, 320, 322, 366, 383, 403; on Samy Khwajah's claim for compensation, 365.
- Conway, Lt—, 267.
- Cook, Capt. John, of the *Worcester*, 163.
- Cooke, Thos. Corsley, writer, 279.
- Cooke, Capt. William, resigns, 402, 403.
- Cooper, Allen, 2nd Officer of the *Clive*, 382.
- Cooper, Thomas, surgeon, 382.
- Cooper, Lt Thomas, resigns, 282.
- Coote, Maj.-Gen. Sir Eyre, C.-in-C., Bengal, xlviii, 350; status, allowances and duties, 4-6, 50; on plan for relief of military invalids, 36-7; knighted, 62.
- Secy to, *see* Grant, John.
- Cope, Capt.—, 62.
- Copper, 365; for settlements in East Indies, 64, 74, 134, 168; sale encouraged, 80.
- Corah, *see* Kora.
- Cordage, *see* Coir.
- Cordera,—, Capt. of the *Astrea*, 243.
- Coromandel Coast, 467.
- Coss (measure of distance), 193, 202, 258, 313, 388.
- Cossae*, *see* *Khasa*.
- Cossid*, *see* *Qasid*.
- Cossim Ally Cawn, *see* Mir Kasim.
- Cossimbazar, 417, 425.
- Cossimbazar Factory, xlviii, 188, 230, 247, 373, 439, 468; investment, 17, 178, 272-3, 306, 385; accounts, 45.
- Chief, 25; commission on *Diwani* revenues, 44; *see also* *Sykes*, F.
- Chief, and Council, rules re. private trade by, 17-8.
- Cotes,—, inspects investment at Khirpai, 332-3.
- Cotsford, Edward, Resdt at Ganjam, 236.

- Cottah*, see *Kotha*.  
 Cotton, 79; export, xxxvi; from Bombay, 74, 139, 350, 436.  
 Cotton, Capt. John, of the *Hawke*, 163.  
 Cottrell, Henry, 345; Supervisor of Revenues of Dinajpur, 344, 376-7.  
 Cottrell, John, 345.  
 Court, Denet, surgeon, 352.  
 Court, Capt. Jonathan, of the *Prince of Wales*, 119, 174, 207, 217, 436, 442, 462.  
 Court of Common Pleas, 113-4.  
 Court of Cutcherry, 280-1.  
 Court of Directors, nature of correspondence of, xvii-xviii; on foreign policy, xxii, xxv, 87; on trade and investment, xxvii, xxviii, xxxvi, xxxvii, xxxix, 7-9, 13-21, 52-3, 59-60, 80-5, 166; on Anglo-French relations, xxix-xxx, 54, 55-8, 60, 70-1; on assumption of *Diwani*, xxxiii-xxxiv; on Coy's servants, xlv-li, 21; urge economy, xlix, li, 154-5, 159, 166; on military administration, lvii, 4-6, 12-3, 33-5, 36-41, 95-8, 100-1, 135; on emigration to East Indies, 21-2; on public works, 22-7; on Bolts' case, 29-32, 47-8, 61-2; on revenue, 41-4; on accounts, 45-7, 103-6; on composition of Board and commission on revenues to employees, 49-51; on bills of exchange, 60, 101-2, 163-4, 167; on H. M.'s Squadron in East Indies, 71-3; on shipping, 77-9; on dismissal of Muhammad Riza Khan, 102-4; on differences between Board and its Select Committee, 107; on appointment of Resdts and Chiefs of factories, 124-6; on Society of Inland Trade, 159-61; on residence of Members of Board, 165-6.  
 —Secret Committee, personnel, 55, 110, 165; note on, 472.  
 Court of Record, 294.  
 Court-martial, question of jurisdiction re., lvi, 321-2; of Capt. Donellan, 36, 460; of offenders at Chandernagore, 213-4; of Capt. Mackenzie, 349-50.  
 Convenanted Servants, see Servants, E. I. Coy's.  
 Covenants, to be executed, by Coy's servants, xlvii, 93-4.  
 Covert, John, writer, 91, 323.  
 Covid (a cubit; a unit of measurement), 53.  
 Cowe, Lt John, resigns, 345.  
 Cowle, old name of Aligarh, q.v.  
 Cox, Ensign John, 299.  
 Coxe, Charles, resigns, 250, 265, 279.  
 Coxe, Capt. Robert, reinstated, 150-1, 161.  
 Coxe, William Hippersley, Secy to Select Committee, dies, 218, 220, 279.  
 Craimer, Mark, 70.  
 Crawford,—, writer, 218.  
 Crawford, Robert, Alderman, 280.  
 Crofts, Charles, Asst at Murshidabad, 112, 250.  
 Crommelin, Charles, Governor of Bombay, 154.  
 Cruttenden (ship), 63.  
 Cruttenden, Edward Holden, Director of E. I. Coy, 71, 109, 116.  
 Cruttenden, W., Director of E. I. Coy, 62, 73, 76.  
 Cuddalore (schooner), 362.  
 Culpee, Culpy, see Kulpi.  
 Cumber, Peter, 346.  
 Cuming, George, Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 54, 62, 71, 73, 76, 109, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 162, 167, 170.  
 Cumming, Lt-Col. John, 150.  
 Curree Juree, see Kharijuri.  
 Currency, see Coinage and Currency.  
 Cust, Peregrine, Dy Chairman, Court of Directors, 6, 52, 54.  
 Custom Master, 78, 161, 350-1.  
 Customs and Excise, withdrawal of exclusive privileges from the English, 21; remission on export of silver, 67; reduction in number of *chaukies*, 83; at markets in army camps, 100-1; on salt, 121, 237, 412, 429; sea-customs, 140, 153.  
 Cuttack (Cuttac), 230, 231; cession of, 239, 480-1.  
 —Resdt at, see Alleyn, Henry.
- DACCA, 17, 188, 294, 368, 429, 437; revenues of, 90, 122, 404-5; *faujdar* at, 147; mint at, 181; settlement of, 428, 452, 453.  
 —Factory Chief, commission on *Diwani* revenues to, xlvii, 44; see also Barwell, Richard; Kelsall, Thomas.  
 Dacres (Davies), Philip Milner, Member of Board, 110, 339, 349, 352, 358, 360, 383, 386, 396, 398, 403, 404, 405, 407; of Secret Committee, 356, 361, 400; of Committee of Circuit, 410, 421; of Select Committee, 435; note on, 487.  
 Dadni (advance made to contractor), 105, 468.  
 Dadni Merchants, 81, 272-3, 346-7, 383.  
 Dafahdar (commander of a body of horse; police officer), 105.  
 Dallal (broker), 81.  
 Dampier, Capt. Edward, of the *Sea Horse*, 63.  
 Dandi (boatman; rower), 212.  
 Danish East India Coy, 143, 249, 318, 449.  
 —Chief, see Cazenove, C.  
 Darell (Darrall), Lionel, Sub-Accountant, 251; services praised, 41, 106, 218; salary, 92; Sheriff of Calcutta, 280.  
 Darell, Vansittart, attorney to Capt. Robert Rous, 326.  
 Darog-i-Adalat (chief officer presiding over a court in absence of judge etc., liv.  
 D'Arras, Le Baron, Capt. of *La Nourvice*, 243.  
 Dastak (passport given by the Govt at Fort William or the Chief of English factories for the goods of the Coy or their servants, which exempted them from duty, restrictions on grant of, xxxix, xl, 82, 348, 366, 379.  
 Dasturi (commission), 27.  
 Davies (Davis), Humphrey, master shipwright, 75, 402.  
 Davies, James, soldier, 462.  
 Davies, John, writer, 323.



- Dawes, Robert, 34.  
 De Buck, Daniel, 233.  
 De Gloss, Capt. L. F., manufactures guns, 80, 180; Brevet-Maj., 96; Maj., 182, 249.  
 De Grey, Sir William, Chief Justice of Court of Common Pleas, England, 113-4.  
 De la Ville, —, Capt. of *Le Vavari*, 243.  
 Dean, R., Dy Master Attendant, salary, 130-1, 278.  
 Dean (Deane), Capt. Joseph, of the *Stag*, 316-7, 334.  
 Deane, Capt. Charles, of the *Earl of Sandwich*, 132.  
 Delaporte, Claude, dismissed, 16, 142, 28; dies, 414.  
 Delhi, 357, 420; Maratha role at, xviii, 263, 266, 285, 286, 314.  
 Delols, see *Dallal*.  
 Demain, James, allowances, 320.  
 Demarin (Demarir), James, mechanic, appointment, 15-6, 309.  
 Dempster, Charles, writer, dies, 459.  
 Dempster, George, Director of E. I. Coy, 9, 52, 167, 170.  
 Dennis, James, 414.  
 Dennis, Robert, 3rd Officer of the *Morse*, 326.  
 Dent, Capt. Digby, of the *Dolphin*, 55.  
 Deptford (ship), 64, 74, 338.  
 Deputy Civil Architect, 372-3.  
 Deputy Custom Master, see Bonwicke, James.  
 Deputy Judge Advocate, see Murray, John.  
 Deputy Master Attendant, see Bartlett, Capt. Barnaby; Bowey, William; Dean, R.  
 Desagerliers, Frederick, 461.  
 Dethick, Thomas, Director of E. I. Coy, 164, 167, 170.  
 Devaynes, William, Director of E. I. Coy, 62, 71, 73, 76, 109, 164, 167, 170, 403.  
 Devonshire (ship), 119.  
 Dewannee, Dewanny, see *Diwani*.  
 Dhirajnarayan (Dirge Narain, Dirige Narrain), Raja, allowances, 88, 340.  
 Dhygke, see Dig.  
 Diamonds, 187, 195, 219, 251, 299, 345, 359, 360, 382, 395, 441; registration of, 79.  
 Dickens, Amborse, 5th Officer of the *Colebrooke*, 382.  
 Dickson, William, writer, 91, 323.  
 Diego Ruy's Island (Diervo Rayes), dependancy of Mauritius, 304, 483.  
 Dig, (Dhygke, Dyyge), Bharatpur, Rajputana, fort of, 202, 205; annexed by the Marathas, xxi.  
 Diler Himmat Khan (popularly known by his title Muzaffar Jang), heir of Ahmad Khan, 314.  
 Dinajpur (Dinagepoor), Bengal, 344, 376, 430; revenue from, 42, 452.  
 Dinapore (Dinapore), Patna Dist., Bihar, 188, 264, 268, 340; cantonments in, lvii, 180, 275, 299.  
 Dirge Narain, Dirige Narrain, see Dhirajnarayan.  
 Diwan (chief officer of State under Muhammadan Govt), 83, 410, 425; Coy to assume office of, 123, 411.  
 Diwani (right to receive collections of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa conferred on E. I. Coy by Shah Alam in 1765), xvii, xviii, 41, 85, 155, 329, 332, 380, 419, 421, 427, 441; revenues from, 42, 122, 128-9, 146, 227-8; commission on, 43.  
 Diwani Adalat (civil court), liii.  
 Doab, the, tract between the Ganges and the Jumna, xxi.  
 Docks, 105; construction of, 22, 74, 180-1.  
 Doleman, James, purser of the *Lord Holland*, 352.  
 Dollar, 305; exchange rate with pound sterling, 66, 134, 141.  
 Dolphin (ship), 55, 56, 61, 62, 75, 76, 270, 290, 299, 333.  
 —Capt., see Dent, Capt. Digby.  
 Donaldson, Alexander cadet, appointment, 53-4.  
 Donne, Thomas, 5th Officer of the *Nottingham*, 415.  
 Donnellan, Capt. John, court-martial of, 36, 153, 344, 460, 470.  
 Doolburam, see Durlabhram Mahindra.  
 Douglas, John, 186.  
 Douglas, William, writer, 91, 323.  
 Doveton, Capt. Richard, of the *Glatton*, 63.  
 Dow, Lt-Col. Alexander, rank restored, 150, 151.  
 Driffield, William, 233, 265.  
 Du Cane, George, writer, 230.  
 Du Cane, Peter, writer, resigns, 279.  
 Du Cane, Peter, Junr., Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 111, 114, 116, 131, 136, 138, 167.  
 Du Friese, Gerret, 279.  
 Du Gloss, see De Gloss.  
 Du Pré, Jos., on settlement between Muhammad Ali and the Raja of Tanjore, 337.  
 Duan, see *Diwan*.  
 Duane, Duanne, Duanny, see *Diwani*.  
 Duc de Choiseul (French ship), 206, 244.  
 Dudley, George, Director of E. I. Coy, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 76, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 138, 162; Member of Secret Committee, 55; Dy Chairman, 110.  
 Duffadars, see *Dafahdar*.  
 Duffield, Vernon, 294; to be deported, 36; note on, 470.  
 Dufton, Frederick, 3rd Officer of the *Asia*, 326.  
 Duke of Albany (ship), 119, 137, 138, 408, 441, 461; lost, 413.  
 —Capt., see Stewart, Capt. John.  
 Duke of Cumberland (ship), 119, 211.  
 Duke of Grafton (ship), 63, 96, 103, 106, 114, 118, 133, 137, 141, 148, 151, 161, 174, 187, 188, 189, 194, 195, 436.  
 —Capt., see Bull, Capt. Samuel; Samson, Capt. Brook.  
 Duke of Kingston (ship), 117, 173, 187, 191, 195, 198, 207, 208, 210, 212, 219,

226, 229, 242, 245, 251, 253, 254, 263, 265; meets with accident, 174.  
 —Capt., *see* Morrison, Capt. Richard.  
*Duke of Portland* (ship), 53, 54, 55, 137, 163.  
 —Capt., *see* Sutton, Capt. John.  
*Duke of Richmond* (ship), 63.  
 Dullubram, *see* Durlabham Mahindra.  
 Dumbleton, William, dies, 308.  
 Duncan, Edmond, 414.  
 Duncan, Jonathan, writer, 137.  
 Duncanson, Alexander, writer, 137, 148, 439.  
 Dundas, Capt. James, of the *Prime*, 163.  
 Dundas, Richard, his influence in Burmese Govt and dispute with Coy, 143, 144, 175-6, 208, 209, 270-1, 363, 364.  
 Durbar, *see* Murshidabad Durbar.  
 Durlabham Mahindra (Roydolub), 147, 237-8, 410; salary of, 86.  
 —Son of, *see* Rajballabh.  
*Dussmassa* Rupee, *see* Rupee, *Das Masa*.  
*Dustore*, *see* *Dasturi*.  
*Dustucks*, *Dustucs*, *see* *Dastak*.  
 Dutch, the, 144, 194, 212, 449; trade relations with, 14, 20-1, 248-9; treaty between Afar Ali Khan and, 248.  
*Dutton* (ship), 64.  
 Duty, *see* Customs and Excise.  
 Dyer, Samuel, 69.  
 Dyer, William, 69.  
 Dynley (Dyneley), John, writer, 91, 218.  
 Dysentery, medicine for, 75.  
 Dyyge, *see* Dig.

*Earl of Elgin* (ship), 272.  
*Earl of Lincoln* (ship), 118, 135.  
*Earl of Middlesex* (ship), 118, 133, 272.  
*Earl of Sandwich* (ship), 132.  
 Earnshaw, Richard, free merchant, 218.  
 East Indies, regulation of emigration to, 21-2, 186-7.  
 Edmonstone, Capt. John, 97.  
 Edward, Charles, 345.  
 Edward, John, 251.  
 Edwards, Richard, 2nd Officer of the *Colebrooke*, 382.  
 Edwards, Thomas, cadet, resigns, 350.  
 Egerton, Lt-Col. Charles, of Bombay, 92.  
*Egmont* (ship), 3, 7, 163, 232, 245, 246, 282, 308.  
 —Capt., *see* Mears, Capt. Charles.  
 Elliot, Alexander, writer, 323.  
 Elliot, Alexander Kynynmount, writer, 91.  
 Ellis, James, surgeon, 282.  
 Elliston, Edward, Chief Officer of the *Verelst*, 283.  
 Elphinstone, Capt. William, of the *Triton*, 18, 135, 414, 442.  
 Emigration, to East Indies, 21-2, 186-7.  
*Emmerties* (kind of piece-goods), 17.  
 Engineers, 96; their position, 152, 297.  
 Ereth, Thos., 2nd Officer of the *Lord North*, 351.  
*Erindo* Oil, *see* Castor Oil.  
 Erra, Paulo, spinner of raw silk, 112.  
 Etawah (Ettawah), U.P., captured by Marathas, 263, 266.

*Europa* (ship), 3, 117, 163, 207, 263, 264, 265, 269, 284, 315.  
 —Capt., *see* Pelly, Capt. Henry Hinde.  
 Europeans, the, 45, 142-3, 144, 225; in artillery, 35; fund for invalid officers and soldiers in army, 68; payment of tolls by, 83; registration of, 186-7; in Vazir's service, 357, 435.  
 Evelyn, John, Alderman, 280.  
 Everitt,—, resigns, 282.  
 Evers, J., pilot, conduct of, 441.  
 Exchange Rate, between sterling and weighty dollar, 134, 141; between sterling and current rupee, 162, 167, 190, 283.  
*Experiment* (schooner), 305.  
 Export Warehouse, 230, 414; superintendence of, 102-3.  
 Export-Warehouse-Keeper, 104, 210.  
 Exports, *see* Trade.  
 Eyres, Maj. George Boulton, rank of, 97, 150, 378, 386, 396-7, 459.

**F**ACTORIES, E. I. Coy's, regulations re. chiefs of, 20, 49, 124-6; *see also* Chittagong; Cossimbazar Factory; Dacca; Patna Factory; Surat Factory; Tatta.  
*Falmouth* (ship), lost, 156, 215.  
 Famine, in Bengal, xviii, 203, 261, 322, 360, 409; conduct of Coy's employees during, xxxii, 107-8, 119-20, 368-9; relief measures, 181, 205, 276; ill effects of, 192, 225, 227-8, 328, 385, 418-9.  
*Farman* (imperial order or grant), 306.  
 Farrar, Henery, 4th Officer of the *Morse*, 326.  
 Farrukhabad, U.P., Maratha attack on, 266-7, 285-6; Shah Alam's advance to, 314.  
 Fast, John, 1st Officer of the *Lord Holland*, 359.  
 Faugoin, Francis, 28-9.  
*Faujdari* (military governor of a district), 121, 147, 180, 237, 266.  
*Faujdari Adalat* (court for trying criminal cases), liii.  
 Fautnel,—, Capt. of *Le St Andre*, 243.  
 Fayzabad, *see* Fyzabad.  
 Fea, John, 3rd Officer of the *Greenwich*, 415.  
 Feake, Charles, 93.  
 Fenner, John Ladd, 4th Officer of the *Colebrooke*, 382.  
 Fenwicke, John, cadet, 54.  
 Ferret Clot, investment in, 17, 18, 19, 53, 230.  
 Fir, trade in, 177-8, 252.  
 Fisher, Maj. Christian, 344.  
 Fisher, James, Lt Fireworker, 34.  
 Fitzgerald,—, writer, dies, 308.  
 Fitzgerald, Lt Charles, resigns, 402.  
 Flannel, for East Indies, 134.  
 Fleetwood, Charles, factor, 69, 148; rank of, 279.  
 Fletcher, Henry, Director of E. I. Coy, 9, 52, 54, 111, 114, 116, 136, 138, 16., 167, 170.

- Fletcher, Sir Robert, 41, 75, 363; seeks compensation, 102; note on, 470.
- Floyer, Charles, 209; Offg Military Storekeeper, 13; to return to Madras, 109-10, 339; Member of Board, censured, 127; of Select Committee, 225, 285-6, 289; of Secret Committee, 303; seeks compensation in lieu of trade privileges, 347-8; resigns, 359; and *passim*.
- Foley, G. R., 51.
- Foley, Richard, cadet, 161.
- Forbes, Thomas, suit against, 24, 26, 51, 130, 143.
- Ford, Thomas, cadet, 75.
- Forde, Col. Francis, 4, 36; note on, 467.
- Fort Marlbro', Benkulen, Sumatra, lviii, 461; money and provisions to and from, lix, 64, 65-6, 69, 134, 135, 169, 270.
- Fort St George, 33, 305, 357; *see also* Madras.
- Fort William Board, dealings with Indian Powers, xxiii, xxiv, 87, 196-7, 220-4, 261-4, 311-3, 366-8, 399-400, 416; on Anglo-French relations, xxx, 331-3, 353-4; revenue administration, xxxiv, 192, 255-6, 328-30, 409-10, 411, 417-21; constitutional growth of, xl-xlv; trade privileges to members of, xl, 291-2, 347-9; composition, xliii, 4, 49, 51, 110, 250, 307-8, 340-1; differences with Select Committee, xliv, 107, 228-9, 237; judicial administration of, li-lvii, 81-2, 321-2, 369, 427-8; censured, lvii, 24-6, 29-32, 34-5, 37-41, 90, 95-8, 106, 120, 130, 136, 145, 148-9, 154-5, 159-61; members' share in commission on revenues, 43-4, 50; conduct re. bills of exchange, 60, 101-2, 126-8, 131, 163-4, 167; exempted from residing at Calcutta, 165-6; protest against appointment of Commissioners for Coy's affairs, 189; explanations re. Maj. Watson's brick contract, 370-2; on investments, 383-4, 438; on Capt. Mackenzie's court-martial, 392-4; on code of conduct for Coy's servants, 396-7; on Board of Inspection, 437.
- Select Committee, composition and functions, xvii, xviii, xliii-xliv, 31-2, 49-50, 108, 316, 354; dealings with Indian Powers, xxii, xxiii, xxiv, xxv, xxviii, 256-7, 267-8, 288, 431-6; on revenue system, xxxii, 328; differences with Board, xliv, 107, 228-9, 237; censured, 59, 109, 110.
- Asst Secy, status, 108-9; *see also* Browne, Richard.
- Presdt, vacancy to be filled by senior-most member, 4; to be member of Select Committee, 49; to be member of Defence Committee, 50; share of the revenues, 50; *see also* Cartier, John; Clive, Robert; Hastings, Warren; Verelst, Harry.
- Secy, status, 108-9; *see also* Baber, Edward; Stewart, John; Wynne, William.
- Fortescue, Francis, 118.
- Fortifications, xvii; of Fort William, 22, 88-9, 180, 219; Court's views on, 27, 144-6, 439; at Chandernagore, 255; at Midnapore, 372-3.
- Foster, William, cadet, 75; resigns, 402.
- Foujdari Adalt*, *see Faujdari Adalat*.
- Foul Point, east side of Madagascar Island, 60.
- Fowdon, Randel, 346.
- Fowke, Francis, writer, 28, 148.
- Fowke, Joseph, free merchant, 93.
- Fox, John, 265.
- Frances, Clement, surgeon, 327.
- Francis,—, in charge of Import-Warehouse, dies, 413-4.
- Fraser (Frayzer, Fryzer), John, 100, 340.
- Fraser, William, Under-Secy of State, England, 143.
- Fraser, Capt. William, of the *Lord Mansfield*, 165.
- Free Mariners, 154; regulations re. bonds of, 93-4.
- Free Masons, Society of, claim compensation, 395.
- Free Merchants, 154; regulations re. bonds of, 93-4.
- Freeman, W. G., Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 54.
- Freize, Gerret Du, 41.
- French, the, military activities of, xxx, 197, 198, 204, 206, 225, 255, 264, 315-6, 435; trade relations with, 14, 21, 248, 278; disputes and measures for settlement with, 54, 56-8, 212-4, 302-3, 331-3; defensive measures against, 58, 60, 70-1, 234-6, 353-4, 355, 390; as agents for transmitting remittances of Coy's employees, 188-9, 280-1, 380, 478; in Vazir's service, 356-7; dealings with Danes, 449; and *passim*.
- Friend, Lt—, petition rejected, 378.
- Fullarton, John, 190.
- Furruckabad, *see* Farrukhabad.
- Fyzabad, U.P., xxviii, 288, 313, 315, 356.
- G**AILLIEZ, Col. Primrose, 234, 240, 241, 259, 264; promotion of, 149; note on, 480.
- Gandas* (small change subsidiary to rupee), 355.
- Ganges, the, 199, 205, 431, 432, 434; survey report of, 281, 362; French allowed to navigate, 353.
- Ganj* (market), 90.
- Ganjam, Madras, restored to Coy, 44.
- Resdt at, *see* Cotsford, Edward.
- Gardiner, Capt. Henry, of the *Lapwing*, 117, 173, 233, 442; reinstated, 118; complaints against, 209-10; protests against removal, 230.
- Garha* (coarse cloth), 17.
- Garrey, Capt. Alexander, 346; resigns, 345.
- Gaziodin Cawn, Gazy-ul-Dein Cawn, *see* Ghaziud-Din Khan.
- Gee, Mrs Maria, widow of Capt. Gee, 254; pension stopped, 346.
- Genoese *Livre*, exchange rate with pound sterling, 8.

- Gentil, Jean Baptiste Joseph, 61, 301; dismissal of, 87, 435; note on, 474.
- George, Robert, Director of E. I. Coy, 136.
- Ghaziud-Din Khan (Ghazy-ul-Dine, Ghazy ul dine Cawn), xxi, xxii, 193; relations with the Marathas, 202-3, 205, 258-9, 314; designs on *Vizarat*, 285; note on, 478.
- Giles, Daniel, 250.
- Giltry, William, 346.
- Gladwin, Francis, 461.
- Glatton* (ship), 63.
- Goddard, Capt. T., reinstated, 97-8, 183; note on, 478.
- Godfrey* (ship), 64.
- Godfrey, John, gunner, 251.
- Gohad, Gwalior, Central India, 435; Mir Kasim given refuge at, xxi, 193, 201.
- Gold, price, 80; coinage, 181, 233; *see also* Mohurs.
- Gold, Robert, 135.
- Gomastahs*, *see* *Gumashtahs*.
- Goodlad, Richard, writer, 91.
- Goodwin (Godwin, Goodwyn), Cornelius, charges against, 339-40; note on, 484.
- Goodwin, Henry, Member of Board, 359, 360, 383, 386, 396, 398, 403, 404, 405, 407, 415, 416, 430, 450; of Secret Committee, 360, 361, 400.
- Goodwyn, Thomas, 233.
- Goodyar, Capt. George Dynely, resigns, 345.
- Goordass, *see* Gurudas.
- Gordan, Robert, invalid, 395.
- Gordon, Capt. A., of the *Amazon*, 236.
- Gore, Capt. Arthur, of the *Nassau*, 119, 442.
- Gore, John, dies, 308.
- Gosling, Richard, writer, 230; resigns, 251, 279.
- Gosling, Robert, writer, 137, 162, 439.
- Gould, Samuel, 323.
- Goverts, Jacob, 21.
- Gowan, Clotworthy, 190.
- Gowhad, *see* Gohad.
- Grafton* (ship), 162, 196, 198, 207, 231, 276, 280, 439, 440, 448, 459, 460, 482, 488.
- Graham, George, army contractor, 306, 437.
- Graham, John, 254; Member of Board, 402, 403, 404, 405, 407, 410; of Committee of Circuit, 237, 410, 421.
- Graham, Lt-Col. John, 157; reinstated, 98-9; note on, 474.
- Grain, monopolised during famine by Coy's servants, 119; price in Bihar, 203; supply to Fort St George, 364-5; export encouraged, 451-2.
- Granby* (ship), 118.
- Grant, Charles, 256; censured, 185-6.
- Grant, Harry, 190.
- Grant, Henry, writer, 252.
- Grant, James, writer, 359.
- Grant, Maj. John, Secy to Maj-Gen. Coote, 6; to be George Williamson's security, 282; departure for England, 350; accusations against Lawrel and Purling, 373-6, 412-3.
- Graves, Thomas, 346.
- Great Britain, naval preparations in, 69; relations with Spain, 70, 194.
- Green, John, Major of artillery and Inspector of Military Stores, 32-3; rank of, 376.
- Greenwich* (ship), 118, 132, 135, 408, 414, 415, 436, 442, 454, 455, 457, 458, 461.
- Capt., *see* Carr, Capt. Robert.
- Gregory, Charles, 5th Officer of the *Asia*, 327.
- Gregory, Isacc, gunner, 251.
- Gregory, Robert, Director of E. I. Coy, 9, 52, 54, 73, 109, 111, 116, 167, 170, 282; diamonds consigned to, 345.
- Greig,—, surgeon of the *Lapwing*, 441.
- Grenier, Le Chevr., Capt. of the *Chevr. du Berger*, 243.
- Grenville* (ship), 63.
- Gridley, James, Corporal, 414.
- Grierson, Henry, 265.
- Griffiths, John, cadet, transferred to Bengal, 34.
- Grosvenor* (ship), 63, 304.
- Grove, Benjamin, 323.
- Grueber, Nicholas, 247; his godowns, 91, 342; nominated as Chief of Cossimbazar, 340.
- Guinand, Henry, Supdt of Piece-goods Investment, 16, 61, 166, 384-5; joins duty, 308-9; refused permission for private trade, 320.
- Gulph of Persia, *see* Persian Gulf.
- Gumashtahs* (Indian agents or factors), 19, 20, 119, 211, 273, 293, 296, 322, 366; oppression by, lxi; to be replaced with *dadni* merchants, 81; monopolise grain during famine, 119-20.
- Gundas*, *see* *Gandas*.
- Gunges*, *see* *Ganj*.
- Gunnies, for St Helena, 75.
- Gunning, Matthew, 76.
- Gunpowder, 78, 338; for Coy's settlements in East Indies, 64, 134, 141, 168-9; instructions re. packing of, 253.
- Supdt of Factory, *see* Worship, John.
- Guns, of brass, 11, 80; damaged, 12-3; old ones to be sent back to England, 175; indent for, 177; from Patna, 180, 249.
- Gunter, Henry, 5th Officer of the *Greenwich*, 415.
- Gunter, Thomas, 414.
- Gurrah*, *see* *Garha*.
- Gurudas (Goordass), Raja, *Diwan* of Mubarakud-Daulah, 410, 447.
- Guyot,—, Capt. of *Le St. Florentine*, 243.
- Gwinnet, Capt. John Prise, plan re. sepoy corps, 97.
- H**ADDOCK, James, executor of John Horne, 325.
- Hafiz Rahmat Khan (Hafez Rahmet, Hafez Rehamat, Hafez Rhamet Cawn), Rohilla Chief, relations with Shujard-Daulah and the Marathas, xxix, 302, 257-60, 289, 315, 357, 432, 433, -34; disaffection in the troops of, 265-7; retires towards northern hills, 400.



- Haidar Ali, ruler of Mysore, 22, 59, 416, 435; note on, 469.
- Haig, John, 5th Mate of the *Triton*, 442.
- Hairbines* (variety of cloth?), 65.
- Halbhanjan* (anticipation of the revenue for ensuing year), abolition of the custom of, 360-1.
- Haldane, John, 3rd Officer of the *Lord North*, 351.
- Haldar* (asst accountant), 412.
- Haldari* (a tax upon marriage), xxxv; abolition of, 422, 451.
- Halhed, Nathaniel Brassey, writer, 137, 439.
- Hall, Christian, 414.
- Hall, John, gunner, 346.
- Hall, Capt. J., of the *Worcester*, 246.
- Hall, Tober, 1st Officer of the *Speke*, 352.
- Halling, Lt W., resigns, 253-4.
- Hambly, Capt. William, of the *Lord North*, 64, 351.
- Hamilton, Alexander, surgeon of the *Lord North*, 351.
- Hampshire* (ship), 55, 56, 60, 64, 65, 103, 174, 191.
- Capt., see Smith, Capt. John; Taylor, Capt. Thomas.
- Hancock T., *chunam* contract with, 275.
- Hancock, Tyso Saul, surgeon, 106, 182.
- Handial (Hurriall), Pabna Dist., Bengal, 212; note on, 479.
- Hannay, Maj. Alexander, pay and allowances, 156, 215; rank of, 378.
- Hannay Bevan and Son, apothecaries, 65.
- Hannay, Capt. Samuel, 33.
- Harcourt* (ship), 140, 163.
- Harding, Capt. Ralph, dismissal of, 342.
- Hare, Francis, Member of Board, 110, 127, 189, 190, 191, 195, 209, 219, 232, 233, 245, 250, 283, 284, 295, 299, 437; to succeed Becher, 265; dies, 307, 341.
- Hare, John, gunner, 299.
- Harkarah* (emissary, messenger), 372, 391.
- Harland* (schooner), 362.
- Harland, Rear-Admiral Sir Robert, C-in-C. of H.M.'s Squadron in East Indies, 71-2, 161, 344; on Coy's claim to search foreign ships, 333, 353-4; note on, 484.
- Harper, Capt. Gabriel, Resdt at the Court of Oudh, 193, 224-5, 234, 240-1, 260; services praised, 99, 129-30; on Oudh-Maratha relations, 267, 357; recalled, 444-5; note on, 478.
- Harper, Richard, 299.
- Harris,—, writer, 439.
- Harris, James, Member of Board, 341, 407, 415, 416, 430, 450, 454, 457.
- Harris, John, 323.
- Harris, John, soldier, 324.
- Harris, Joseph, 187.
- Harris, Roger, 233.
- Harris, Thomas, writer, 137.
- Harrison, John, Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 52, 62, 70, 71, 73, 76, 109, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 138, 162; Member of Secret Committee, 55, 110.
- Harrison, William, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.
- Harmet, William, 2nd Officer of the *Ponsborne*, 325.
- Harvey, John, supercargo of the *Hampshire*, 65.
- Harvey, John, private, 251.
- Harwood, W., Sub-Accountant, services praised, 46.
- Hastings, Warren, to succeed Cartier, 109, 110, 111, 116; Member of Board, 109, 110, 358, 360, 383, 386, 390, 396, 398; Governor of Bengal, 136, 339, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 430, 443, 450, 454, 455, 462; Member of Select Committee, 390, 436; of Secret Committee, 400; and *passim*.
- Hatcher, John, 251.
- Hatley, Parker, dues from, 104, 183.
- Hats, supply to Bengal from England stopped, 11-2.
- Haul-bungen*, see *Halbhanjan*.
- Hausting, William, matross, 402.
- Havannah* (ship), 118.
- Haverkam, William, writer, 137, 161, 162.
- Hawes, Serjt Mathias, 346.
- Hawke* (ship), 163.
- Hawke, Sir Edward, Coy employs his son, 61; note on, 472.
- Hawkey, Warwick, 161.
- Hawkins, Charles, 190; dies, 279.
- Hay, Mrs Christiana, 190.
- Hay, Ensign John, 190.
- Hayter, Capt. George, of the *York*, 63.
- Hazzorzellahs*, see *Huzur-Zilas*.
- Hector* (ship), 119, 139, 436.
- Helas,—, contractor for *chunam*, 212.
- Henchman, Thomas, Asst Secy to Board, 190, 301, 346.
- Henneway, Richard, writer, 439.
- Herring, James, pardon for, 167, 343-4.
- Hessman, Capt. William, 97.
- Hewit, Thomas, 190.
- Heyden, David van der, mariner, 154, 345.
- Higgins, Frederick, 299.
- Higginson, Alexander, 190; Accomptant to Committee of Works, salary, 130-1, 277.
- Hijili (Ingelee, Ingellee), Midnapore Dist., Bengal, 173, 270, 272, 337, 351.
- Himmat Bahadur, Commander of the Vizier's army, 481.
- Hindman, Capt. Thomas, of the *Duke of Richmond*, 63.
- Hindupat, Raja of Bundelkhand, xxii.
- Hircarrahs*, see *Harkarah*.
- His Majesty's Squadron, see Navy, King of England's.
- Hissman, Maj. F., 440.
- Hoare, Capt. Daniel Griffiths, of the *British King*, 163.
- Hodgson, Joseph, volunteer in pilot service, to be promoted, 113.
- Hoissard, Thomas, writer, 169.
- Holdars*, see *Haldar*.
- Holme, Capt. James, 97.
- Holme, Robert, writer, 137, 439.
- Holme, T., Collector of 24-Parganas, removed from his office, 411, 441.
- Hooghly, Bengal, 429; revenue settle-

- ment of, 411, 428-9; custom house at, 412; salt farmers of, 453.
- Collector, *see* Lushington, William.
- Dutch Director and Council, complain of interruption in their trade, 20-1; supply of saltpetre to, 318.
- Faujdar*, 180; conduct of, 121, 237; appointment of, 147; note on, 483.
- Hooghly River, docks on, lvii; and *passim*.
- Hore, Capt. Matthew, of the *Devonshire*, 119.
- Horne, Capt. John, of the *Morse*, 325; dies, 303.
- Horsendon* (ship), 63.
- Horsley, John, 52.
- Hosea, William, 190; Secy of Board's Select Committee, 316.
- Hospital, acquisition of building for, 47.
- Hough (Hugh), Capt. Samuel, of the *Ponsborne*, 64, 163, 325.
- Houghley, Houghly, *see* Hooghly.
- Houghton* (ship), 117, 163, 165, 206, 207, 208, 242, 245, 250, 251, 253, 254, 263, 265, 272, 278.
- Capt. *see* Smith, Capt. William.
- House of Commons, Speaker of, *see* Norton, Sir Fletcher.
- Howe, Capt. Thomas, of the *Nottingham*, reinstated, 10-1.
- Howell, David, 346.
- Hudson, Capt. Sir Charles, of the *Talbot*, 63, 67.
- Hudson, Joseph, 323.
- Hugh, *see* Hough.
- Hughes, John, 5th Officer of the *Lord Holland*, 360.
- Humble, James, 251.
- Hume, Alexander, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.
- Hume, Capt. David, restored to his rank, 182.
- Hummell, George, Corporal, 346.
- Hummum* (a kind of coarse cloth), for Balambangan, 53.
- Hunt, Mrs.—, widow of Maj. Hunt, provisions of her will, 60-1, 381.
- Hunt, Capt. William, of the *Rochford*, 64, 362-3, 382, 383, 390.
- Hunter, David, *see* Heyden, David van der.
- Hunter, R., Junr, contractor of bullocks for army, 38, 39-40.
- Hunter, Robert, clerk in Turkey Coy, 21.
- Huntingdon* (ship), 163.
- Hurcarras*, *see* *Harkarah*.
- Hurlock, J., Director of E. I. Coy, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 76, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 138, 162, 167, 170.
- Hurriall, *see* Handial.
- Hust-o-Bud* (a comparative account showing the past and present produce of an estate), xxxv, 330, 422, 423.
- Hutchins, Richard, 297.
- Hutchinson, John, factor, dies, 279.
- Huzur-Zilas* (districts paying their rents direct to the treasury), revenue settlement of, 410, 423, 425, 426.
- Hyder Ally Khan, *see* Haidar Ali.
- Hyles, John, 254.
- IMPORT-Warehouse-Keeper**, 104, 178, 324, 403, 458; censured, 79.
- Imports, *see* Trade.
- Inayatullah Khan, son of Hafiz Rahmat Khan, revolts against his father, 455.
- India, regulations for emigration to, 21-2; preparation of general chart of, 89.
- Indian* (ship), 244.
- Indians, the, barred from artillery, 35; as arbitrators, 369.
- Ingelee, Ingellee, *see* Hijili.
- Inglis, Hugh, 106.
- Inglish, Charles, surgeon, 299.
- Ingram, Charles, factor, dies, 218, 279.
- Init-ulla-Cawn, *see* Inayatullah Khan.
- Inspector of Military Stores, *see* Green, John.
- Intrepid* (ship), 161.
- Invalids, fund for, 36-7; *see also* Clive's Fund for Military Invalids.
- Investment, xvii; methods of, xxxvii, 13-21, 81, 346-7, 383-4; effect on Bengal revenues, lx, 292-3; promotion of, 59, 322; China, 66, 210-1; in silk, 141, 178, 272-3, 384-5, 439-40; duty on, 177; Malda, 211; Madras, 246; Bombay, 249; in opium, 304-5; note on, 468; *see also* *Dadni*; *Paikars*; *Piece-goods*; *Trade*.
- Iron, 64, 74, 79-80, 134, 168-9.
- Ironside, Mrs Anna, 190.
- Ironside, Capt. Charles, 190.
- Ironside, Edward, supercargo of the *Hampshire*, 65.
- Ironside, Lt-Col. Gilbert, 149-50; share of commission on revenues, 377, 401.
- Irving, Ensign James, resigns, 345.
- Islamabad, *see* Chittagong.
- Islands, *see* Bourbon and Mauritius.
- Italians, the, in silk industry, 8, 14-5, 112, 142, 230, 247.
- JACKSON**, Capt. Jeffery, of the *Speke*, 64, 352.
- Jackson, Nicholas, 2nd Officer of the *Nassau*, 442.
- Jackson, William, 2nd Officer of the *Speke*, 352.
- Jacomb, Robert, writer, 218; dies, 279.
- Jafar Ali Khan (Jaffier Aly Cawn, Jaffur Ally Cawn), Nawab of Bengal, 84, 405, 410, 471, 472, 475; treaty with the Dutch, 248.
- Jagat Seth* (title conferred by Mughal Emperor upon Fateh Chand, a Marwari banker at Murshidabad, and his successors, 85, 86; note on, 473).
- Jagir* (hereditary assignment of land and of its rent as annuity), 88, 147, 190, 193, 340.
- James, John, 282.
- James, William, Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 109, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 138, 162; **Chairman**, 76.
- Jameson, Capt. Alexander, of the *Horsendon*, 53.
- Janoji Bhonsle (Jonojee), proposed agreement with. xix. 23; note on, 480.

- ardins,—, Capt. of *La Normande*, 243.  
 arratt, William, 251.  
 ats (Jauts), the, xix, xxi, xxv, xxvi, 129, 223, 224, 261; relations with Marathas, 193, 205, 220, 239, 240, 257, 266, 434, 454; war between the Sikhs and, 198-9.  
 Jaunpur, U. P., 41, 75.  
 Jawan Bakht, Mirza Jahandar Shah, eldest son of Shah Alam, 285, 311; note on, 482.  
 Jefferson, Ensign,—, 381, 386.  
 Jekyll, Joseph, 277, 397; Member of Board, 110, 173, 181, 189, 191, 195, 219, 232, 233, 245, 250, 307, 324, 327, 333, 341, 349, 352, 356, 358; censured, 127, 437; Chief of Patna, 377; resigns, 350, 359.  
 emmison, Robert, 251.  
 emmison, Thomas, 233.  
 Jephson, Alexander, 113-4, 339-40; note on, 484.  
 epson, A., of the *Speke*, 352.  
 essore, Bengal, re. settlement of, 441, 428, 429, 452.  
 Joanpoor, *see* Jaunpur.  
 Johannis,—, Capt. of *Le Duc de Choiseul*, 243.  
 John Duval and Sons, London, 324.  
 ohnson, Capt. Gabriel, 97.  
 ohnson, R., surgeon, 441.  
 ohnson, William, chaplain, 92.  
 ohnston, John, 346.  
 ohnstone, Capt. John, of the *Granby*, 118.  
 ones, Albert, officer in H.M.'s service, 6.  
 ones, Capt. Benjamin, of the *Shrewsbury*, 64, 74.  
 ones, Fitzowen, 190.  
 ones, G., 414.  
 ones, Thomas, cadet, 75.  
 udge Advocate, of Bengal, *see* Stewart, John.  
*Juggut seat*, *see* Jagat Seth.  
 Justice, Administration of, measures for reform, li-lvii; *see also* Court of Cutcherry; Court-martial; Mayor's Court.  
 Justice, Capt. William, of the *St. Helena*, 363, 381; mission to Pegu, 143, 175, 208-9, 252-3, 271.
- K**ALLU Khan (Calloo Cown), 2nd son of Najibud-Daulah, 258.  
 Karamnasa River (Carumnassa, Carumnassah), 84, 197, 203, 264, 268; note on, 472.  
 Kasimbazar, *see* Cossimbazar.  
 Keble (Keeble), Page, Master Attendant, 74.  
 Keerpooy, *see* Khirpai.  
 Keigaly (Keighley), James English (English), 28; rank of, 149, 277.  
 Kelsall, Thomas, Chief of Dacca Factory, 48; Member of Board, 110, 250, 279, 292, 294, 299, 302, 310, 316, 322, 324, 340; controlling power over supervisors, 237; Member of Secret Committee, 303, 333; of Select Committee, 316; resigns, 341.  
 Kenneway, Richard, writer, 137.  
 Kent (ship), 163.  
 Ker, Capt. Robert, of the *Princess Royal*, 163.  
 Khalsa (office in which the revenue work of the Muhammadans and early British Govt was done), xxxv, 410, 427.  
 Kham Dull Sain, Raja of Morung, dispute with his *Diwan*, 480.  
 Kharijuri (Curree Juree), 24-Parganas, Bengal, 217.  
 Khasa (kind of fine muslin), 17; for Balambangan, 53.  
 Khata (account book), 281.  
 Khirpai (Keerpoy), Midnapore Dist., Bengal, 332; *malmal* from, 17.  
 Khorah, *see* Kora.  
 Khurja (Chor'ah), Bulandshahr Dist., U.P., fort taken by the Marathas, 434.  
 Kidd, John, Chief Mate of the *Prince of Wales*, 218.  
 Kiernander, Rev. John Zachariah, 47, 156, 190; note on, 471.  
 Kilpatrick, Maj. J., estate of, 106.  
 Kindersley, Lt-Col. Nathaniel, commander of the artillery, dies, 95, 182, 231.  
 King, James, cadet, 137.  
 Kingston, *see* Duke of Kingston.  
 Kinloch, Capt. George, 180; note on, 477.  
 Kinlock, John, 137, 439.  
 Kinnaird,—, writer, drowned, 308.  
 Kirle, John, 386.  
 Kishennagur, Kistnagar, *see* Krishnagar.  
 Kissen Kaunt Pottok, *see* Krishna Kant Pathak.  
 Kists (instalments), 426.  
 Knudson, Capt. Christian, resigns, 298-9.  
 Koil, old name of Aligarh, *q.v.*  
 Kora (Korah), 313, 315; proposal re. exchange of, 87; Maratha activities in, 129, 266, 267, 433.  
 —*Faujdar*, *see* Najaf Khan; Samad Khan.  
 Kotha (Warehouse), 281, 364.  
 Krishna Kant Pathak (Kissen Kaunt Pottok), 343.  
 Krishnagar, Nadia Dist., Bengal, 410, 421; land settlement, 423, 424-5.  
 Kulpi (Culpee, Culpy), village on the Hooghly, 204, 270.  
 Kumarkhali (Commercolly), Nadia Dist., Bengal, silk from, 7, 14, 273, 306, 439; note on, 467.  
 Kumher (Kumire), Bharatpur, Rajputana, fort delivered to Marathas, 202.  
 Kunjabihari Haldar (Conjubeharry Holdar), Capt. Mackenzie's banyan, 374-6.
- L'***Ajax* (ship), 243.  
*La Boudaine* (ship), 243.  
 La Fontaine,—, Capt. of *Le Vert Gallant*, 243.  
 La Gierandais,—, Capt. of *L' Etoile*, 243.  
*La Marquise de Ceuuron* (ship), 243.  
*La Marquise de Marbocuss* (ship), 243.  
*La Normande* (ship), 243.

- La Nourvice* (ship), 243.  
*La Ville Vaut* (ship), 243.  
 Lacam, Benjamin, *chunam* contract with, 275.  
 Lahore (Lahor), 293.  
 Lakshmipur (Luckypore), Noakhali Dist., Bengal, Resdt at, *see* Barton, William.  
 Lambert, William, Member of Board, 402, 437.  
 Lane, G., private, 251.  
 Lane, Thomas, Member of Board, 181 and *passim*.  
 Lanquedoc, France, silk reelers from, 15.  
 Lankeet, Daniel, 279, 294; illicit trade by, 48.  
*Lapwing* (packet), 109, 150, 209, 442, 458, 461.  
*Lapwing* (ship), 59, 101, 102, 107, 114, 116, 117, 118, 119, 131, 132, 134, 150, 163, 164, 166, 173, 206, 217, 218, 219, 225, 226, 229, 230, 233, 234, 239, 240, 242, 252, 257, 270, 289, 363, 406, 407, 409, 412, 421, 426, 427, 430, 436, 441, 442, 443, 455, 457.  
 —Capt., *see* Gardiner, Capt. Henry.  
*Lapwing* (snow), 11, 60, 76, 441.  
 Larkins, Thomas, Chief Officer of the *Triton*, 414.  
 Larkins, William, writer, 137, 439.  
 Larkins, Capt. William, of the *Lioness*, 118.  
 Lascelles, Peter, Director of E. I. Coy, 62, 70, 71, 73, 76, 109, 164, 167, 170.  
 Lassa, *see* Lhasa.  
 Lassly, Alexander, in pilot service, 77.  
*Latham* (ship), 163, 165, 168, 170.  
 —, Capt., *see* Prince, Capt. John.  
 Lauder, John, 163.  
 Law, Michael, 187.  
 Law de Lauriston, Jean, appointed by France to settle differences with the English, xxxi, 54, 56, 58.  
 Lawrell, James, Alderman, 61; Secy to Society of Trade, 103; to be Chief of Patna, 340; Member of Board, 341, 359, 360, 383, 386, 396, 398, 403, 404, 405, 407; of Secret Committee, 361, 400; Maj. Grant's charges against, 373-6, 412-3; Member of Committee of Circuit, 410, 421.  
 Lawrence, Gen. Stringer, 4.  
*Le Beaumont* (ship), 243.  
 Le Conne,—, Capt. of *Le Telemaque*, 243.  
 Le Doux, Daniel, claims damages, 41, 279.  
*Le Duc de Choiseul* (ship), 243.  
*Le Duc de Raslin* (ship), 243.  
*Le Necessaire* (ship), 243.  
 Le Rey,—, Capt. of *Le Marquise de Marbocuss*, 243.  
*Le St. André* (ship), 243.  
*Le St. Florentine* (ship), 243.  
*Le Telemaque* (ship), 243.  
*Le Vavori* (ship), 243.  
*Le Vert Gallant* (ship), 243.  
*Le Villerand* (ship), 243.  
 Lead, 66; sale, 80; for Coy's settlements in East Indies, 64, 134, 165, 168-9; purchase of, 91; disposal, 377.  
 Leak, Henry, writer, 91, 323.  
 Lediard, John, to be cadet, 153.  
 Lee, John, to be volunteer in pilot service, 134.  
 Leg, Thomas, 4th Officer of the *Ponsborne*, 325.  
 Legh,—, writer, 182.  
 Leigh, T., Import-Warehouse-Keeper, 403-4.  
 Lennox, Capt. John, of the *Anson*, 67, 119, 133, 175.  
 Leslie, Lt-Col. Mathew, 151; represents against his supercession, 149-50; resigns, 278.  
 Leslye, Capt. Charles, of the *Warwick*, 71.  
*L' Étoile* (ship), 243.  
 Levett, John, Mayor of Calcutta, 185.  
 Levie, Le Chivalr. De, Capt. of *Le Beaumont*, 243.  
 Lewin, Capt. Richard, of the *Vansittart*, 219, 254, 270; reinstated, 10-1.  
 Lewis, Samuel, 279.  
 Lhasa (Lassa), Tibet, trade with, 179.  
 Like, John, 2nd Mate of the *Lapwing*, 210; reinstated, 209.  
 Lillyman (Lylliman), Maj. J., in Corps of Engineers, 33, 190; to be Chief Engineer, 320; note on, 484.  
 Lindsay, Sir John, 236, 256, 333, 354; to examine Anglo-French differences, 54, 56, 58, 302-3; knighthood for, 62; note on, 471.  
 Lindsay, Robert, writer, 137, 439.  
 Lindsay, William, to be volunteer in pilot service, 134.  
*Lioness, Lyoness* (ship), 63, 118, 173, 174, 187, 191, 218.  
 —Capt., *see* Larkins, Capt. William.  
 Liquors, restrictions on sale of, 101, 145.  
 Lister, James, 282, 324.  
 Little-John, Adam, 3rd Officer of the *Lord Holland*, 359.  
 Livius, George, writer, 137, 161.  
 Lloyd, Charles, case re. losses due to ban on trade with Oudh, 91-2, 177, 377, 437-8, 474.  
 Lloyd, John, writer, 137, 161.  
 Lloyd, Thomas, 2nd Officer of the *Lord Holland*, 359.  
 Lodge, Richard, writer, 91.  
 Lodge, Richard, free merchant, 251.  
 Logan, James, sent to Nepal to explore trade facilities, xxxix, 180.  
*London* (ship), 10, 64, 74, 133.  
 —Capt., *see* Webb, Capt. John.  
*London Gazette* (newspaper), 70.  
 Long Ells (a kind of cloth), 64, 134, 168-9.  
*Lord Anson*, *see* Anson.  
*Lord Camden* (ship), 28, 79, 132.  
*Lord Holland* (ship), xxxix, 74, 77, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 115, 135, 138, 151, 162, 178, 338, 339, 342, 351, 352, 358, 359, 360, 362, 370, 380, 383, 390, 395; note on, 486.  
 —Capt., *see* Nairn, Capt. Fasham.  
*Lord Mansfield* (ship), 28, 51, 52, 54, 55, 64, 121, 157, 165, 168, 169, 289, 311, 316, 336, 354, 483-4.  
 —Capt., *see* Angus, Capt. James.  
*Lord North* (ship), 64, 73, 75, 76, 77, 317, 321, 338, 345, 351.



—Capt., *see* Hambley, Capt. William.  
 Lord, Peter, 346.  
 Lot, Thomas, 414.  
 Lowe, John, demands compensation, 44.  
 Lowes (Lowis), John, writer, 91, 323.  
 Luck, Benjamin, 265.  
 Luckypore, *see* Lakshmipur.  
 Lushington, William, Collector of Hooghly, 452.  
 Lylliman, *see* Lillyman.  
 Lynn (ship), 105.  
 Lyon, Thomas, carpenter, 381.  
 Lyoness, *see* Lioness.

**M**ABARECK-ul-Daulah, *see* Mubarakud-Daulah.  
 Mackay, Capt. Hugh, 363.  
 Mackenzie, Maj. Alexander, resigns, 135, 187.  
 Mackenzie, Capt. David, 402, 412-3, 460-1; trial of, 11, 378, 392-4; enquiry into conduct of, 349-50, 374-6.  
 Mackwanpore, Nepal, conquered by Prithvi Narayan, 486.  
 McLeod, Ensign,—, 461.  
 McNaughton, Alexander, 414.  
 Macneal, Alexander, purser of the *Triton*, 442.  
 Madagascar, French military preparations at, 58, 60.  
 Madderson, Thomas, 346.  
 Maddison, Robert, asst at Murshidabad Durbar, 279; services praised, 49.  
 Madec (Madox), René, French adventurer, to rejoin Coy's service, 151; requests pardon, 224-5; joins Sindia's forces, 454; note on, 480.  
 Madeira Wine, 64, 74, 158, 165, 178, 338, 460; restrictions on quantity to be carried by ships, 3; for Bengal and Fort Marlbro', 135; sale, 210.  
 Madhavrao Ballal (Madaraw), Peshwa, 287, 434, 454; death of, xxii.  
 Madox, *see* Madec.  
 Madras, 317, 436, 459, 467; money and provisions to and from, lix, 53, 59, 64, 66, 134, 168, 338, 364-5, 451; revenues of, 4-5; recruits for, 32, 153, 249; *see also* Coromandel Coast; Fort St George.  
 Madrid, treaty of, 194.  
 Magandre,—, Capt. of *Le Villerand*, 243.  
 Magazine, removed from Allahabad to Patna, 200, 234.  
 Maghs (natives of Arakan), 105.  
 Mahadji Sindia, overtures to the Mughal Emperor by, xxii; commands Maratha forces against the Rohillas, 388; surrender of Rohilla chiefs to, 400; opposed to interference in Rohilla affairs, 454.  
 Mahbaureck-ul-Dowla, *see* Mubarakud-Daulah.  
 Mahde Row, *see* Madhavrao Ballal, Peshwa.  
 Mahip Narayan, dispute between Chait Singh and, 481.  
 Mahmudi (fine variety of muslin), 17.  
 Mahmudshahi, 429, 440.

Mahomed Reza Cawn, Mahomet Reza Cawn, Mahomud Reza Cawn, *see* Muhammad Riza Khan.  
 Mahomed Ally, *see* Muhammad Ali Khan.  
 Mahomed Sadeck, *see* Muhammad Sadiq.  
 Mahomed Shahy, *see* Mahmudshahi.  
 Mahujy Sindeah, *see* Mahadji Sindia.  
 Maitland, Capt. Patrick, of the *Bute*, 7, 269.  
 Majendie, William, death of, 182.  
 Makepeace, Thomas, private, 282.  
 Malangi (salt manufacturer), 412.  
 Malda, Bengal, *khasa* from, 17, 53, 211.  
 —Resdt at, *see* Bathoe, John.  
 Malguzari (payment of land revenue), 42.  
 Malmal, *see* Muslin.  
 Mammoodies, *see* Mahmudi.  
 Manjhi (steerman of boat), 212.  
 Manly, Peter, gunner, 251.  
 Mannee Begum, *see* Munni Begam.  
 Mansfield (ship), xxxvii, 132, 232, 244, 247, 249, 255-7, 272-3, 282, 284-6, 292, 293-4, 295, 298-300, 302, 341, 344, 347, 362, 401; note on, 481-2.  
 Manship, John, Director, E. I. Coy, 9, 54, 55, 73, 76, 110, 114, 131-2, 136-8, 162, 164-5, 170.  
 Mapletoft, Darah, Treasurer of the Grant Lodge of Free Masons, 190, 395.  
 Maps and Plans, 89, 161, 187.  
 Marathas, the, defeated at Panipat xix; desire to control Delhi politics, xx; relations with Indian powers, xxi, 193, 197, 198, 202-3, 205, 220-2, 234, 239-40, 257, 260, 334-5, 387-8, 432; withdraw from Delhi, xxii; dissensions amongst, xxvi, xxvii; as rivals to the Coy, xxvii; defeat Nawal Singh, 201-2; relations with Shujaud-Daulah, 223, 263, 434; invade Rohilkhand, 258, 266-7; relations with Shah Alam, 259, 314, 433; military activities of, 261-3; capture Bithur and Etawah, 263; invade Rohilkhand, 266-7; intrigues of, 285; at Delhi, 286, 311, 314-5, 431; relations with Zabita Khan, 314-5, 336, 357, 388, 434, 454; Rohillas defeated by, 388, 431-2; Barker's action in Oudh against, 399-400; alliance with Najaf Khan, 400; withdraw from Rohilkhand, 416; incursion into the Jat country, 434; and *passim*; *see also* Janoji Bhonsle; Madhavrao Ballal; Mahadji Sindia; Raghunath Rao; Tukoji Rao Holkar.  
 Markets, regulations re., 90, 100-1.  
 Marquis of Rockingham (ship), 139, 174, 436.  
 Marriott, Randolph, 282.  
 Marshall,—, pilot, 137.  
 Martin, Elizabeth, 359.  
 Martin, Lt-Col. Fleming, 57, 182, 231; misconduct re. construction of Berhampore cantonment, 26; note on, 469.  
 Martin, Richard, 282.  
 Masnad (throne), 215.  
 Masulipatam, Kistna Dist., Madras, 36, 225, 344; taken by Col. Forde, 467.  
 Mathura (Mehtrah), U.P., xxi; conference at, 202.  
 Mattocks, Lt John, 98, 116.

- Maulavi* (a person learned in Muhammadan law), liv.  
Maulda, *see* Malda.  
Mauritius, *see* Bourbon and Mauritius.  
Maverly, Capt. Charles, 97.  
May, John, 324.  
Mayor, of Calcutta, *see* Levett, John; Robinson, John; Saunderson, Robert.  
Mayor's Court, Calcutta, 103, 112-4, 116, 130-1, 158, 280, 297-8, 301-2, 324, 379, 381, 413-4; powers and jurisdiction of, lv, lvii; Bolts' case in, 300, 308.  
Mears, Capt. Charles, of the *Egmont*, 163, 308.  
Medicines, 65, 75, 178, 281, 381.  
Meer Jaffier, *see* Jafar Ali Khan.  
Meerut (Myrutt), U.P., *sanad* to Marathas for, 433.  
Megrees, Crispin, 233.  
Mehtrah, *see* Mathura.  
Mercer, William, misbehaviour towards Sultan of Solo, 343.  
Merchants, impoverishment of Indians, xxxvi, xli; Armenians, 176, 208; *see also* Dadni Merchants.  
*Mercury* (ship), 163, 165, 167, 168.  
—Capt., *see* Sharpe, Capt. James.  
Mernard, Thomas, 326.  
Mertlins, John Henry, 190.  
Messman, Samuel, 32, 250.  
Mestayer, Lt Lewis, 25, 26-7, 300, 323, 343; note on, 484.  
Mhorattahs, *see* Marathas.  
Michell, P., Secy to Court of Directors, 76.  
Michie, John, Director of E. I. Coy, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 76, 109, 111, 114, 116, 131-2, 136, 138, 164, 167, 170.  
Middleton,—, writer, 218.  
Middleton, Samuel, 263-4, 282, 319, 345; reinstated, 27-8; Member of Board, 110, 244, 245, 253-4, 307, 310, 319, 324, 327, 349, 352, 358, 428; Chief of Patna, 184; Member of Select Committee, 255, 269, 316, 336, 357; Chief of Murshidabad Revenue Council, 265; Member of Secret Committee, 303, 333, 356; applies for redress, 347-8; Resdt at the Court of Murshidabad, 406, 448; Member of Committee of Circuit, 421, 448; Chief of Cossimbazar, 425-6.  
Midnapore, Bengal, 105, 276, 420; revenue from, 42, 330, 360-1; fort at, 372-3; settlement of, 411, 428-9.  
—Resdt at, *see* Baber, Edward; Vansittart, George.  
Miguel, Khwajah, Armenian agent, 294.  
Mikell, Gregory, 323.  
Military Administration, *see* Army.  
Military Committee, 341, 369-70; question of Lt-Col. Campbell's membership, 342.  
Military Fund, *see* Clive's Fund for Military Invalids.  
Military Paymaster, 46, 104, 159, 183-4, 277, 379, 381, 414.  
Military Storekeeper, 277; expenditure entered under civil charges, 42, 277, 297; *see also* Foyer, Charles; Russel, Claud.  
Military Stores, 158, 204; ban on trade by Coy's servants in, 58-9, 106; *see also* Ammunition; Arms; Guns; Inspector of Military Stores.  
Militia, 235; training of, 143.  
Miller, Anne, 190.  
Miller, John, attorney to Capt. Ross, 250, 254.  
Miller, Matthew, 282.  
Milles, Capt. John, of the *Kent*, 163.  
Mills, Charles, 282.  
Milne, Alex, 3rd Officer of the *Speke*, 352.  
*Minerva* (schooner), 358.  
*Minerva* (snow), 339.  
Mir Jafar, *see* Jafar Ali Khan.  
Mir Kasim, 198, 261, 296, 405, 435; attempts alliances with Indian powers against the Coy, xx, xxi; intrigues against Coy, xxii; movements and activities of, 193; secret negotiations between Shah Alam and, 196, 199; Board reviews political activities of, 197; failure of plans, 201; alliance with Sikhs and Marathas, 234; Coy's war with, 248.  
Mirtle (Myrtell, Myrtle),—, murdered during expedition for obtaining timber at Morung, 177-8, 252, 477.  
Mirza Amany, *see* Asafud-Daulah.  
Mitchell, David, 118.  
Mitchell, Robert, gunner, 37.  
Mobarek-ul-Dowlah, *see* Mubarakud-Daulah.  
Mocha, Yemen, 65.  
Mohur (Mohars, Mohoors), 233, 324; note on, 480.  
Mollineux, John, 251.  
*Molungee*, *see* *Malangi*.  
Money, William, 118.  
Monghyr (Mongheer), Bihar, 188, 268; bullocks for army from, 38, 41, 86, 322, note on, 474.  
Monier,—, Capt. of *Le Duc de Raslin*, 243.  
Moorshedabad, *see* Murshidabad.  
Mootigill, *see* Motijhil.  
Moradbaug, *see* Muradbagh.  
Morattahs, *see* Marathas.  
Mordaunts, John, cadet, 135.  
Morgan, Lt-Col. Charles, conflict with Fort William Board, lvi, 392-4; question of his rank, 149-50, 396-7.  
Morgan, Lt-Col. James, of the Second Brigade, his representation, 185.  
Morgan, Joseph, 282.  
Morris, Capt. Arthur, of the *Colebrooke*, 64, 301, 382, 401, 403-4.  
Morris, James, 51.  
Morrison, Maj. John, 342, 445; seeks permission to represent Shah Alam in England, 456, 462; note on, 488.  
Morrison, Capt. Richard, of the *Duke of Kingston*, 163, 207-8, 254, 265.  
*Morse* (ship), 15, 16, 28, 54-5, 76, 272, 299, 303, 305, 308, 312, 317, 325, 336, 338, 344, 353, 357, 362, 383.  
—Capt., *see* Horne, Capt. John; Watson, Capt. John.  
Mortars, *see* Guns.  
Morung, Nepal, 177; trade with, 9; dispute between the Raja and the *Diwan*

- of, 238; restrictions on cutting of timber in, 252; note on, 480.
- Moses, Johannes, Junr *Shahbandar* at Rangoon, 144, 364.
- Motijhil (Mootigill), lake and palace at Murshidabad, 146, 249.
- Motte, J., 251, 299, 382, 395; representation re. diamonds, 458-9.
- Motteux, John, Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 9, 54.
- Mubarakud-Daulah (Mabareck-ul-Daulah), reduction of his establishment, xli, 84-5, 447; succeeds as Nawab of Bengal, 200; treaty with Coy, 215; gives present to Shah Alam, 238; presents by Coy to, 256.
- Muckund Sing, *see* Mukund Singh.
- Mufti (an officer to expound the Muhammadan law which the *Qazi* was to execute), lii.
- Muggs, *see* Maghs.
- Mughal Cavalry, 448; composition of, 159.
- Mughal Emperor, *see* Shah Alam.
- Muhammad Ali Khan, Nawab of Arcot, 62, 457; survey of *jagirs* granted by, 75; Coy's present to, 256; settlement between Raja of Tanjore and, 337.
- Muhammad Elich Khan (Allage Cawn), 240, 241.
- Muhammad Riza Khan, *Naib Diwan*, xxxi, xl, 85, 102, 119, 120, 122, 192, 228, 301, 370, 420, 427; administration of *Diwani* lands by, xxxi, 90, 237-8; charges against, xxxiii-xxxiv, xli, 122-4, 405, 443, 446; arrested, xxxiv, 409; letter re. Bolts, 61, 357, 390; grants monopolies in salt, 120-1; note on, 473.
- Muhammad Sadiq, Head *Shahbandar* at Rangoon, 144.
- Mukund Singh, Raja of Ramgarh, 368; note on, 486.
- Mulberry Plants, cultivation of, 179.
- Mulmul*, *see* *Malmal*.
- Multan (Multahn), Punjab, 293.
- Munirud-Daulah (Munerah-ul-Doulah), 223, 285, 308, 319; to be reconciled with Shah Alam, 192-3; return of, 203, 223, 261, 267; note on, 479.
- Munni Begam (Mannee Begum), wife of Jafar Ali Khan, 447, 449, 457; appointed guardian of Mubarakud-Daulah, xli, 410; note on, 487.
- Munro, Col. Hector, 85-6; note on, 473.
- Munster, Treaty of, 194.
- Muradbagh, palace in Murshidabad, Bengal, 45.
- Murray, John, Dy Judge-Advocate, recommended for promotion, 378; Judge-Advocate at Berhampore, 402.
- Murshidabad (Muxadavad), Bengal, lvii, 42, 45, 82, 188, 200, 390, 404, 411, 426, 428, 437, 481; shifting of seat of revenue collection from, xxxiv, 411; mint at, lviii, 181; revenue of, 43, 328, 417-8; treasury statements, 232, 253, 299, 324, 349, 359, 382; customs at, 429.
- Nawab of, *see* Saifud-Daulah; Mubarakud-Daulah.
- Murshidabad Durbar, 46, 49, 157, 237, 238.
- Resdt at, 228; *see also* Sykes, F.
- Murshidabad Revenue Council, xxxiii, xxxiv, 107, 135, 146, 157, 249, 310, 328, 341, 344, 355, 373, 374, 400, 404-5, 410, 412, 420, 430, 457; abolished, 426-7.
- Chief, *see* Alexander, J.; Becher, R.; Middleton, S.
- Murshidabad *Sicca* Rupees, *see* Rupee.
- Muslin (*malmal*), 16, 17, 60.
- Musned*, *see* *Masnad*.
- Musseffer Jung, *i.e.* Muzaffar Jang, title of Diler Himmatt Khan, *q.v.*
- Muxadavad, *see* Murshidabad.
- Myrtell, Myrtle, *see* Mirtle.
- Myrutt, *see* Meerut.
- NADIA, Bengal, 410, 429; revenue settlement of, xxxiv, 421-2.
- Naib Diwan* (deputy revenue minister under the Muhammadan administration), office abolished, xxxiv, 409, 421; *see also* Muhammad Riza Khan.
- Nairn, Capt. Fasham, of the *Lord Holland*, 64, 112, 338, 351, 358, 359, 360, 363, 395.
- Najaf Khan, *Faujdar* of Kora, 259; dismissal and restoration, 199, 203, 223-4, 478; Shah Alam's grants to, 315; stipend stopped, 400; defeats Rohillas, 431.
- Najafgarh (Nijibgaur), Bijnor Dist., U.P., 258, 431; note on, 481-2.
- Najai* (tax formerly assessed in Bengal upon cultivators present to make up for any deficiency arising from death or disappearance of their neighbours), effects of the imposition of, 419.
- Najibud-Daulah (Najibul-Daulah), *Amir-ul-Umara*, *Mir Bakhshi* of Shah Alam, xix, 193, 257, 259, 263, 267, 287, 314, 482; relations with Marathas, xxi, 203, 205; political activities of, 202-3, 322-3; alliance with Mir Kasim, 234; political consequences of his death, xxi, 258-9; note on, 478.
- Najmud-Daulah (Nizamut-ul-Dowlah), Nawab of Bengal, xl, 238.
- Nandakumar, xlii, 410; correspondence between the Vazir and, 261.
- Napaul, *see* Nepal.
- Napper, Serjt Gerard, 100; dies, 340.
- Naraindoo (Narraindoo), Zamindar of Chicacole, 44; note on, 470.
- Narayan Rao, Peshwa, murder of, xxii.
- Nash, Ensign—, resigns, 282.
- Nassau* (ship), 137, 138, 436, 437, 442, 458.
- Capt., *see* Gore, Capt. Arthur.
- Naval Storekeeper, 272, 365.
- Naval Stores, 177; for Chittagong, 365.
- Navy—,
- E. I. Coy's, donation to, xlv, 59, 85, 86, 126, 136, 149, 188-9, 280-1, 379-80, 437, 478; relations with H.M.'s Squadron in East Indies, 71-2; note on, 472.
- King of England's, 22; Court's instructions re., 71-3.
- Nawab Nazim* (term applied to the Governor of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa

under the Muhammadan Govt), *see* Bengal, Nawab of.  
 Nawal Sing (Newal Singh, Nowal Sing, Nule Sing), Jat Chief, 198, 205, 266; 479; defeated by the Marathas, xxi, 201-2; his victory over the Sikhs, 201-2; note on, 482.  
 Nazim (superior officer or Governor of a province charged with the administration of criminal law and police), liv, 420.  
 Nazrana (a ceremonial present), 241.  
 Neave, Richard, 52.  
 Nelson, Thomas, surgeon of the *Clive*, 398.  
 Nepal (Napaul), 105, 486; trade with, xxxiv, xxxix, 179-80; *see also* Morung.  
 Nicholas, John, 233.  
 Nicholls, John, 2nd officer of the *Nottingham*, 415.  
 Nicholson, Mathew, 346.  
 Nijib Cawn, Nijif Cawn, Nijife Cawn, *see* Najaf Khan.  
 Nijib Gur, *see* Najafgarh.  
 Nijib-ul-Daulah, *see* Najibud-Daulah.  
 Nimes (Nismes), France, reelers of silk from, 15.  
 Nizam Ali, Lord Clive suggests alliance with, xix.  
 Nizamul-Dowlah, *see* Najmud-Daulah.  
 Nizamat (Office of Naizm or Governor), 421.  
 Norfolk<sup>a</sup> (ship), 11.  
 Northern Circars, Andhra Pradesh, 467, 480.  
 Northington (ship), 163, 165.  
 Northumberland (H.M.'s ship), 53, 66, 71, 73, 317.  
 —Capt., *see* Symonds, Capt. John.  
 Norton, Sir Fletcher, Speaker, House of Commons, 113-4.  
 Nottingham (ship), 10, 119, 132, 133, 134, 136, 408, 409, 414, 415, 416, 418, 431, 436, 437, 440, 441, 444.  
 —Capt., *see* Howe, Capt. Thomas; Stoakes, Capt. Peter.  
 Novi, Italy, silk business at, 15, 66.  
 Nozim O'Dowlah, *see* Najmud-Daulah.  
 Nuddea, *see* Nadia.  
 Nudjib Cawn, Nudjif Cawn, Nudjuff Cawn, *see* Najaf Khan.  
 Nudjibgar, *see* Najafgarh.  
 Nudjum-ul-Dowlah, *see* Najmud-Daulah.  
 Nuncomar, *see* Nandakumar.  
 Nuzerannah, *see* Nazrana.

**O**GILVIE, Capt. James, of the *Valentine*, 163.

Olive, James, dies, 308.  
 Oliver, Bethell, 265.  
 Omrose Gosseine, *see* Umrao Giri Gosain.  
 Opium, for Balambangan, 52, 438; investment in, 304-5.  
 Ordnance, *see* Guns.  
 Orman, Laurence (Lawrence), his claims, 41, 75, 279.  
 Orme, Robert, 190.  
 Osborne, Lt John, deportation of, 318-9, 323, 324; note on, 483.

Oudh, trade with, xxxvi, xxxix, 84, 366-7; Coy's help to protect, 389, 399-400.  
 —Nawab Vazir of, *see* Asafud-Daulah; Shujaud-Daulah.  
 Ourry, Capt. Isaac Florimond, of the *Buckingham*, 71.  
 Owen, George, 3rd Mate of the *Harcourt*, 140.  
 Owens, Capt. D., of the *Lapwing*, 209-10, 219.  
 Owens, Edward, 233.  
 Oxford (H.M.'s warship), 71, 317.  
 —Capt., *see* Taylor, Capt. Thomas.

**P**ACHEAT, *see* Panchet.

Pachotra (custom or toll house), at Murshidabad, 429.  
 Pacifick (ship), 63.  
 Paddy, 250, 284.  
 Paikars (intermediary dealers, brokers), xxxvii, 293, 343, 358, 438; investment through, 17-20, 81; oppressed at Rampur-Boalia, 26.  
 Palk, Robert, 24; Member of Patna Revenue Council, 108, 280; recalled, 377.  
 Pallister, Michael, Chief Officer of the *Greenwich*, 415.  
 Palmer, Charles, 60-1.  
 Palmer, Henry Charles, 324.  
 Panchet (Pancheat), Manbhum Dist, Bihar, settlement of, 429.  
 Panipat (Pannipāt), Punjab, 266; battle of, xix; Maratha incursions into, 314.  
 Pargana (tract of country comprising a number of villages), 276, 330, 367, 368, 425, 428, 429.  
 Pargana Sepoys, 392; service regulations of, 158, 368.  
 Paris, Treaty of, 56.  
 Parker, George, 350.  
 Parker, Capt. John Neville (Nevil, Nevill), reinstated, 97, 386; services appreciated, 413; note on, 470.  
 Parliament, 69; appoint committee to enquire into Coy's affairs, 168.  
 —Act of, re. dismissal and deportation of Coy's servants, 29-30; for controlling illicit trade by Coy's servants, 58-9; for regulating immigration, 294.  
 Parrot, John, purser of the *Colebrooke*, 363, 382.  
 Parry, Rev.—, 278.  
 Parwana (order, grant of letter under royal seal; license or pass), 82, 120-1.  
 Pascall, H., Chief Officer of the *Colebrooke*, 382.  
 Pates, Samuel, 299.  
 Pathans (Pattans), the, xxi, 261; relations with the Marathas, 240, 257, 258, 260, 266; to join the confederacy, 287, 387-8; opposed to Shah Alam's march towards Delhi, 314; *see also* Ahmad Khan Bangash.  
 Patna, 182, 204, 298, 372, 389; coins minted at, lviii, 181; opium from, 52; foundry at, 180, 249; magazine removed to, 193-4, 234; saltpetre from, 247; defence of, 285.



- Patna Factory, 184, 188, 273, 366, 368-9 ; finances, 42, 349, 382 ; fire at, 365, 440.  
—Chief, commission on *Diwani* revenues to, xlviii, 44 ; *see also* Middleton, S.
- Patna Revenue Council, xxxiii, 107, 280, 355 ; members, 135, 440, 445 ; on farming of Bihar lands, 328-9 ; to settle matters with the Gorkha Raja 367-8 ; to provide carriages for troops, 391.  
—Chief, *see* Alexander, J. ; Jekyll, J.
- Patna *Siccās*, *see* Rupee.
- Patta* (a deed of lease), xxxv, 331, 422.
- Pattani* (goods manufactured to order) xxxvii, 17, 18, 19 ; restrictions on private trade in, 293.
- Pattans, *see* Pathans.
- Pattison, Shell, carpenter, 27.
- Paul, Capt. Nathaniel, of the *Harcourt*, 163.
- Pawson, W., Alderman, 185.
- Peach, Col. Joseph, 282 ; dies, 216.
- Peacock, Francis, to develop trade with Morung, 9, 252, 459.
- Pearse (Pearce), Thomas Deane, 231, 376 ; Maj. in artillery, 33 ; Lt-Col. 95-6, 182 ; representation of, 298 ; on abolition of the rank of Capt.-Lt in artillery, 378.
- Peat, Francis, 162 ; to be promoted, 153 ;  
Peat, George, 162.
- Pegu (Pigue), Lower Burma, 363 ; trade relations with, 143, 144 ; timber from, 175.  
—King of, 105, 252, 271 ; Board's views re., 175.
- Peirce, Capt. Richard, of the *Earl of Ashburnham*, 118.
- Pelly, Capt. Henry Hinde, of the *Europa*, 163, 264, 265, 269.
- Pemble, Lt Charles, question of his rank, 151.
- Pennington, Rev.—, 28 ; dies, 278.
- Pepper, 133 ; from Fort Marlbro', 65-6, 69.
- Perfect, Henry, 54.
- Pergunnahs*, *see* *Pargana*.
- Perring, John, writer, 67, 91.
- Persian Gulf, 21.
- Persian Language, Coy's servants to learn, 49, 110-1.
- Pertenarain, *see* Prithvi Narayan Sah.
- Perwannahs*, *see* *Parwana*.
- Peshkash* (offering or tribute paid to govt), 248.
- Peshwa, the, *see* Madhavrao Ballal ; Narayan Rao.
- Phipps,—, Supdt of Filature, Rangpur, 306.
- Phipps, Edward, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.
- Phirmaund*, *see* *Farman*.
- Phousdar*, *Phowzedars*, *see* *Faujdar*.
- Piece-goods, investment in, 16-7, 166, 304-5 ; faulty packing of, 114, 142.
- Piedmont, Italy, silk from, 7.
- Pigot* (ship), 69, 79.
- Pigou, Frederick, Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 52, 54, 70, 71, 73, 76, 109, 111, 114, 131, 132, 162 ; Dy Chairman, Court of Directors, 9 ; Member, Secret Committee, 55, 110.
- Pigou, Capt. Peter, of the *Huntingdon*, 163.
- Pigou, William Henry, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.
- Pigue, *see* Pegu.
- Pishcash*, *see* *Peshkash*.
- Pitt* (ship), 272.
- Plastow, Thomas, 397.
- Playdell, Charles Stafford, Member of Board, 93.
- Plowden, Henry Chicheley, 111, 156 ; writer, 169.
- Poggis, Dominicus, spinner of raw silk, 8-9.
- Police, of Calcutta, 460.
- Pondicherry, French activities at, 225.
- Ponsborne* (ship), 64, 66, 73, 74, 162, 163, 304, 307, 317, 318, 319, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 334, 336, 338, 362, 383, 458.  
—Capt., *see* Hough, Capt. Samuel.
- Poole, Miss Suzannah, 345.
- Pooneah*, *see* *Punyaha*.
- Popple, Mrs Anne, 441.
- Portland* (ship), 304, 305.
- Pote, Edward Ephraim, writer, 137, 148.
- Pottah*, *see* *Patta*.
- Pouchon,—, his method of silk reeling, 247, 385.
- Pound Sterling, 253, 395 ; exchange rate with current rupee, 6, 28, 51, 67, 69, 75, 162, 167, 190, 283 ; exchange rate with Genoese *Livre*, 8 ; exchange rate with weighty dollar, 66, 134, 141.
- Powell, John, cadet, 54.
- Power, Thomas, pardoned, 167, 343-4.
- Poynting, Capt. Thomas, of the *Resolution*, 163.
- Precious Stones, registration of, 79 ; *see also* Diamonds.
- Preston, Capt. Robert, of the *Asia*, 64, 326, 327.
- Price, Capt. Joseph, 207, 254.
- Price, N., writer, 218 ; dies, 279.
- Prime* (ship), 163.
- Prince, Capt. John, of the *Latham*, 163.
- Prince of Wales* (ship), 115, 119, 137, 154, 157, 161, 163, 173, 174, 187, 191, 195, 198, 207, 210, 212, 216, 218, 219, 226, 229, 230, 233, 234, 242, 244, 245, 251, 257, 436, 442, 462.  
—, Capt., *see* Court, Capt. Jonathan.
- Princess Louisa* (Danish ship), 197, 200, 201, 205, 220.
- Princess Royal* (ship), 163.
- Prithvi Narayan Sah (Pertenarain), Gurkha Raja, territorial disputes with, 367-8 ; note on, 486.
- Probyn, Allen, cadet, deported, 37.
- Prudent* (ship), 161.
- Public Works, waste of money in, lvii ; inadequate control over contractors, 22-3 ; *see also* Committee of Works ; Docks ; Fortifications.
- Pugh, Charles, 190.
- Punyaha* (day on which rent or revenue for the ensuing year is settled, or day on which the first instalment is paid), xxxv, 228, 236.

*Purgunnahs*, see *Pargana*.

Purling, Charles, Collector and Supervisor of Revenues at Rangpur, 349; Maj. Grant's charges against, 373-6, 412-3.

Purling, John, Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 76, 109, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 162; Dy Chairman, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73; Chairman and Member, Secret Committee, 110.

Purling, John, writer, dies, 218, 279.

Purnea, Bihar, famine in, 203; French activities in, 204; incursions of Morung people into, 238.

Purvis, Capt. C., of the *Valentine*, 3.

*Putney*, see *Pattani*.

*Puttahs*, see *Patta*.

*Pycars*, *Pykars*, see *Paikars*.

**Q**ABULIAT (counterpart of a revenue lease), 425.

*Qasid* (courier; messenger), 406.

*Qazi* (civil judge under the Muhammadan Govt), lii.

Quarter Master General, to act as Barrack Master General, 342.

*Queen* (ship), 63, 304.

**R**ADSHAHY, see *Rajshahi*.

Radwell, Thomas, gunner, to be helped from invalid fund, 345; retires, 346.

Rafael, \* Johannes Padre, Khwajah, Armenian merchant, complaint against imprisonment, 32.

Raghunath Rao, commands Maratha forces, 434.

Raghunath Sain, Raja of Morung, 480.

Ragull, Maj. T., Chief Engineer of Artillery, 249.

*Rahdari* (duties levied on the transit of all goods in the interior of a country), xxxv.

*Rai-Rayan* (title given to Hindu civil officers of high rank, especially the finance minister and treasurer of the Nawab of Bengal), xxxv.

Rajahmundry, Godavari Dist., Madras, captured by Col. Forde, 467.

Rajballabh (Rajabullub, Rajebullub), son of Durlabhram Mahindra, petitions for succession to father's *jagir*, 147; *Diwan* of the *Khalsa*, 410; *Rai-Rayan*, 448.

Rajbari (Rajahbari), Faridpur Dist., E. Bengal, 348.

Rajmahal (Rajahmaul), Santal Parganas Dist., Bengal, 86.

Rajputs (Rajepoots), the, Maratha incursions into the territory of, 193, 198, 201.

Rajshahi (Radshahy, Rajeshahy), Bengal, revenue settlement of, 410, 425-6; note on, 474.

Ram Ramnundee, see *Ramram Nandi*.

Ramchandra Ganesh, commander of Maratha army in the north, movements of, 258, 287, 314, 336; to capture Delhi, 482.

Ramgarh (Ramgar), a fort in Jat country, proposed attack by Marathas, 434.

—Raja, see *Mukund Singh*.

Ramnarayan Misra (Ramnarain Misseer), 217.

Ramnarayan (Ram Narain), Raja, 88.

Ramnath Misra (Ramnaut Misseer), 217.

Rampur-Boalia (Bauleah), Rajshahi Dist., Bengal, 343; private trade in silk at, 19; extortions by Forbes at, 26; buildings at, 306; factory at, 468.

—Resdt at, see *Barwell*, Richard.

Ramram Nandi (Ram Ramnundee), 374.

Ramsay, Capt. Jonathan, resigns, 345, 381.

Rangoon, 363, 364.

Rangpur, Bengal, xxxix, 306, 349; silk manufacture, 14; to have a Residency for developing trade with Assam and Bhutan, 80; inhabitants' complaint against Capt. Mackenzie, 374, 392-3, 412.

Ranjit Singh, brother of Nawal Singh Jat, 266, 479; note on, 482.

Ranny Bowanny, see *Bhawani Devi*.

Ranson, Abraham Daking, writer, 137, 439.

Raper, Matthew, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.

Rasooi, Quin, 346.

Ratan Singh, ruler of the Jats, 482.

Rate, John, 3rd Officer of the *Triton*, 442.

*Rawana* (passport), 82.

Records, E. I. Coy's, 36, 183; irregular and incomplete transmission of, 20-1, 103-4, 125-6, 150, 157; saved from fire, 298.

Redwood, for Fort St George, 338.

Reddall, Capt. John, of the *Lord Camden*, 132.

Reed, Capt. Francis, of the *Godfrey*, 64.

Reed, John, Member of Board, 110, 181, 215, 219, 232, 233, 283, 284, 299, 310, 324, 327, 340, 349, 352, 358, 360, 386, 459; on chiefship and land-holdings of Chittagong, 217, 274; on trade privileges of the Councillors, 347-8; Member of Secret Committee, 303, 333, 356, 361; indisposed, 435.

Reinhardt, Walter (popularly known as Sumroo), joins Marathas, 314.

Rennell, Maj. James, Surveyor-General, 45, 440; note on, 488.

*Resolution* (ship), 163, 165.

Restitution Money, accounts of, 46, 103, 340; distribution of, 86, 321, 438.

Revenues, xvii; collection of, xviii, xxxi, 255-6, 310, 328-31, 355-6, 360-1, 368, 369-70, 426; effect of famine on, xxxi-xxxii, 192, 205, 225, 227-8, 418-9; steps to improve *Diwani*, xxxiii-xxxiv, 146; commission to Coy's servants on, xlviii, 5, 43-4, 50, 184, 295, 341, 401; accounts of, 41-3; not to be utilised for military purposes, 59; from salt, 121, 237, 412; decrease in *Diwani*, 122, 128-9, 451; allowances of revenue councils, 290-1; settlement of Bengal districts, 405, 410, 411, 412, 421, 425, 428, 450; letting of lands on long leases, 409, 418; mal-administration of, 419-21; abolition of oppressive taxes, 422; reduction in collection charges, 422-3; settlement with zamindars and talukdars, 423-4,

- 429-30; *see also* Board of Revenue; Committee of Circuit; Murshidabad Revenue Council; Patna Revenue Council.
- Rice, monopoly during famine, 120, 122, 368-9; for Fort St George, 365.
- Rice, Capt. Henry, of the *Dutton*, 64.
- Richardson, Capt. George, of the *Pigot*, 69.
- Richardson, William, cadet, 151.
- Riddell, Thomas, 163.
- Rio de Janeiro (Rio Janeiro), Brazil, 174, 482.
- Ritchie, William, 414.
- Riza Quali Khan Khorasani, *see* Munirud-Daulah.
- Roberts, J., Director of E.I. Coy, 6, 9, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 109, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 162, 164, 167.
- Roberts, William, 1st Officer of the *Lord North*, 351.
- Robertson, Ensign Francis, 99; to be pardoned, 396.
- Robertson, William, 2nd Officer of the *Greenwich*, 442.
- Robinson, John, Mayor of Calcutta, 280.
- Robinson, Pickering, Supdt of Silk Filature, 67, 112, 141, 161, 166, 247, 298, 306, 385; terms of appointment, 8; to be posted at Rangpur, 14-5; allowance, 142; on Italian method of reeling, 283, 322; seeks permission for private trade, 320.
- Roches, Chevalier de le, French Governor of Mauritius, 304.
- Rochford* (ship), 64, 70, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 91, 97, 164, 317, 338, 358, 362, 381, 382, 383, 390, 397, 399, 400, 401, 413, 431, 487, 488.
- Capt., *see* Hunt, Capt. William.
- Rochford, Earl of, Secy of State, England, 344.
- Rogers, George, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 134, 169.
- Rogers, Capt. John, of the *Earl of Middlesex*, 118, 163.
- Rohillas, the, xix, xxv, 129, 193, 261; relations with the Marathas, xxi, xxvi, xxvii, 220-1, 240, 257-8, 388, 431-2; relations with the Nawab Vazir of Oudh, xxix, 129, 223, 260, 287, 387-8, 416, 432-3, 434; opposed to Shah Alam, 314.
- Romal*, *see* *Rumals*.
- Rooke, Thomas, writer, dies, 218, 279.
- Ross, Capt. Andrew, of the *Ankerwyke*, 190-1, 250, 254.
- Ross, Lt David, 51.
- Ross, Lt-Col. P., Chief Engineer, Madras, question of his rank, 297.
- Round, William, 190.
- Rous, C. W. B., examines Bihar revenue accounts, 457.
- Rous, Capt. Robert, 119; of the *Royal Henry*, 133; of the *Britannia* 326.
- Rous, Thomas, Director of E. I. Coy, 54, 62, 70, 71, 73, 109, 111, 114, 116; Member of Secret Committee, 55, 110.
- Rous, William, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.
- Rowannah*, *see* *Rawana*.
- Rowland,—, cadet, court-martialled, 323.
- Rowland, Mary, 190.
- Rowland, Thomas, 324.
- Royal Charlotte* (ship), 63, 103, 139, 173, 174, 178.
- Royal Henry* (ship), 133.
- Roydolub, *i.e.* Raidurlabh, *see* Durlabhram Mahindra.
- Ruby* (ship), 270.
- Ruggiero, James, spinner of raw silk, 8.
- Rumals* (face towels; handkerchiefs), for Balambangan, 53.
- Rumbold, Sir Thomas, Member of Board, 110, 147, 192, 366; on supplying bullocks and provisions to the army, 40; on revenues, 42, 329; note on, 470.
- Rungpore, *see* Rangpur.
- Runjeat Singh, *see* Ranjit Singh.
- Rupee, note on, 485-6.
- Arcot, 48, 208, 233, 324, 365.
- Benares, 261.
- Current, exchange rate with pound sterling, 6, 28, 67, 69, 75, 162, 167, 190, 283; and *passim*.
- Das Masa*, 276.
- Murshidabad *Sikka*, 318, 364.
- Patna *Sikka*, 318.
- Sanwat* (rupee which has been current more than one year and deteriorated in value in comparison with rupee of accounts), lvii, 89, 181, 228, 307, 380, 382; abolition of *batta* on, 181.
- Sikka* (silver currency of the kings of Delhi in general use), 69, 228, 232, 233, 253, 324, 328, 330, 349, 359, 364, 380, 382, 390; abolition of distinction between *sanwats* and, 89; coinage regulations re., 306-7.
- Surat, exchange rate between Murshidabad *Sikka* and, 364.
- Vaziri* (coined by the order of Nawab Vazir of Oudh), 184, 219, 299.
- Russell, Claud, Military Storekeeper, 12; to be reverted and sent back to Fort St George, 109-10; Member of Board, 127, 173, 189, 191, 194, 195, 197, 200, 204, 206, 216, 219, 226, 229, 232, 233, 242, 244, 245, 253, 254, 263, 283, 284; Member of Select Committee, 255, 285, 286, 316, 336; Collector General, 276; returns to England, 322, 324, 339, 340; deputed to Shujaud-Daulah, 481.
- Russell, Capt. Lockhart (Lockard), engineer, to return to Bombay, 92; employed on fortifications of Fort William, 278; to reconnoitre French settlements in Madagascar, 333; note on, 474.
- Sadr* Cutcherry (principal revenue office of a district), 426.
- Sadr Diwani Adalat* (supreme civil court), liv.
- Sadr Nizamat Adalat* (supreme criminal court), liv.
- Sagar Island, at the mouth of the Hooghly, 24-Parganas Dist., Bengal, light house at, 140.

- Sage,—, Paymaster at Benares, 184.  
*Sahukar* (banker), 217.  
 Saifud-Daulah, Nawab of Bengal, 84, 200, 214, 235, 238; death of, xl, xli, 84, 200, 214.  
 Saifud-Din, 314.  
*St. Helena* (ship), 143, 175-6, 209, 252-3, 271; sold, 363.  
 —Capt., *see* Justice, Capt. William.  
*St. Helena*, 60-1; provisions for, 74, 75, 233.  
*St. Lubin*,—, 278; entry into Bengal prohibited, 36.  
*St. Mary's Point*, Madagascar, to be reconnoitred, 60.  
*Salisbury* (ship), 22, 23, 43, 63, 304.  
 —Capt., *see* Bromfield, Capt. Philip.  
 Salt, 103, 120, 159-60, 395; trade in, 21, 121, 186, 249, 348-9; revenue from, 121-2, 237, 412, 429.  
 Saltpetre, 3, 14, 74, 105, 139, 210, 219, 273, 317-8, 438; distribution, 67, 133, 144, 247-9, 318, 338; Bombay Govt demands skilled manufacturers of, 305.  
 Samad Khan (Sau-ide-Cawn, Saw-ide-Cawn), Khwajah, *Faujdar* of Kora, 199, 223; note on, 478.  
 Samson, Capt. Brook, of the *Duke of Grafton*, 67, 118, 195.  
 Samy, Khwajah, 365.  
*San Sicca*, *see* Rupee, *Sikka*.  
*Sanad* (deed of grant by the Govt of office, privilege, or right), 82, 238, 274, 433.  
*Sannyasi* (Hindu religious mendicant), 178; note on, 477.  
 Sanson,—, French adventurer, in Vazir's artillery, 435, 488.  
 Sarfaraz Khan, Nawab of Bengal, 88; note on, 474.  
*Sarkar* (govt or supreme administrative body), 83, 86, 88, 90, 123, 240.  
*Sarraf* (banker or money changer), 181; regulations re. coinage by, 318.  
 Sagar Island, *see* Sagar Island.  
 Sau-ide-Cawn, Saw-ide-Cawn, *see* Samad Khan.  
 Saunders, Alexander, 346.  
 Saunders, Capt. David, of the *Grosvenor*, 63.  
 Saunderson, Robert, Alderman, 185; Mayor of Calcutta, 379.  
*Savage* (ship), 48-9.  
 Savage, Capt. Augustus, of the *Duke of Cumberland*, 119.  
 Savage, Henry, Director of E. I. Coy, 54, 62, 70-1, 109, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 162, 167; Member of Secret Committee, 55, 110, 165.  
 Sayer, C., E. I. Coy's Standing Counsel, 112, 113-4.  
*Sazawal* (agent appointed by a landowner or lessor to compel payment of rent by tenants or lease-holders; collector of revenue), 355.  
 Schooley, Godfrey, purser of the *Greenwich*, 442.  
 Scindy, *see* Sind.  
 Scollough, George, 4th officer of the *Asia*, 326.  
 Scot, John, 190, 265.  
 Scott, Henry, writer, 91, 323.  
 Scott, Lt John, 461.  
 Scott, Capt. Robert, of the *Speaker*, 119.  
 Scrafton, Luke, Commissioner for Coy's settlements in India, 467.  
*Sea-Horse* (ship), 63, 317.  
 Sealy, Capt. John, of the *Northington*, 156.  
 Sears, Lt Samuel, 34, 150-1, 216, 394.  
 Secret Committee, *see* Court of Directors, Secret Committee.  
 Secret Department of Inspection (Committee of Inspection), 102, 161, 182, 184; note on, 477.  
 Seiks, *see* Sikhs.  
 Select Committee, *see* Fort William Board, Select Committee.  
 Sempill, Lt-Col. G., 149.  
 Serampore, Hooghly Dist., Bengal, complaint of French intrusion at, 449.  
 Servants, E. I. Coy's 40-1, 58-9, 82-3, 119-20, 368-9; trade activities, xxxvi; service regulations, xlv-li, 30, 93, 124-5, 141, 148, 158-9, 396-7; restrictions on acceptance of presents, 27, 28; to study Persian, 49, 110-1; *see also* Writers.  
 Seyks, *see* Sikhs.  
*Sezawulls*, *see* *Sazawal*.  
 Shah Abdallah, *see* Ahmad Shah Abdali.  
 Shah Alam (Shaw Alum), Mughal Emperor, relations with the Coy, xix, lx, 86-7, 199, 256, 289, 311-4, 319, 354, 479; relations with the Marathas, xxi, xxii, xxv, 263-5, 286-9, 314, 416, 431-2, 454; proposes march to Delhi, xxiv, xxvi, 221-3, 259, 335-6; arrives at Delhi, xxvi, 239-40, 357; relations with Shujaud-Daulah, 192-3, 267, 287-8, 315, 334; secret negotiations between Mir Kasim and, 196, 199, 204-5; attacks Farrukhabad, 314; Zabita Khan prepares to resist, 336, 388, 432; marches from Allahabad, 356; indisposed, 387; appoints Maj. Morrison as ambassador to King of England, 462; stipends to 451, 456; and *passim*.  
*Shahbandar* (harbour master), 144, 429.  
*Shahzada* (prince), *see* Jawan Bakht.  
 Sharpe, Capt. James, of the *Mercury*, 163.  
 Sherwan,—, surgeon, 210.  
*Shikdar* (revenue collector), 419.  
 Shipley, James, 346.  
 Shipping, xviii, 21-2, 48-9, 52-3, 55, 65-6, 69, 78, 105, 115, 118-9, 132-4, 140, 175, 350-1, 381, 383-4; movements, 3, 74, 76, 163, 165, 174-5, 197, 207-8, 230, 243-6, 269-72, 303-5, 317, 338-9, 358, 362-3, 413, 436-7; illicit trade by commanders, 10-1; accounts, 79; measures to check misconduct of shipmasters, 139-40; no changes in pilot service, 176; tonnage, 210; question of search of foreign ships, 333, 353-4; *see also* Docks.  
 Shitab Rai (Shitabroy), Raja, 192, 329, 355; arrested, xxxiv; enquiry into the conduct of, 443, 446, 457; removed from service, 409.  
 Shoes, supply to Bengal from England stopped, 1-2.



- Shrewsbury* (ship), 3, 7, 37, 39, 43, 47, 48, 64, 74, 186.
- Shroffs*, see *Sarraf*.
- Shujaud-Daulah (Shougah Dowla, Shuja Doulah, Sujah-ul-Daulah), Nawab Vazir of Oudh, relations with the Coy, xix, xx, xxvii, xxxix, 45, 87, 196, 199, 204, 223-4, 227, 240, 256, 267, 313, 334-5, 356-7, 365-7, 387, 389, 399-400, 433-5, 444, 455, 471, 481; relations with the Marathas, xxi, xxiv, 129, 203, 223, 241-2, 257-8, 263-4, 315, 416, 432; relations with Shah Alam, xxvi, 192-3, 205, 287-9, 311, 315, 335, 387; relations with the Rohillas, xxvi, 220-1, 257-60; removal of Armenians from territories of 32, 296; trade with dominions of, 84, 91, 366, 438; and *passim*.
- Shukartar (Succurtaul, Suckertall), fort in Muzaffarnagar Dist., U.P., 336; evacuated by the Rohillas, 388; captured by Marathas, 416.
- Sicca Rupee*, see *Rupee*, *Sikka*.
- Sikaah, Thomas, 4th Officer of the *Speke*, 352.
- Sikhs (Seiks, Seyks, Sicks, Siks), the, xix, xxi, 197, 234; around Panipat, 193; relations with the Jats, 198-9, 201-2; reported alliance with Mir Kasim, 234; opposition to Marathas, 261.
- Silk, 7-8, 14-6, 17-8, 112, 142, 293-4, 366, 410; manufacture, xvii, xxxvi, xxxvii, 19-20, 66-7, 142, 247, 283, 306, 438-40; raw silk, 114, 141, 166, 179, 211, 298, 364, 384-5, 390, 411; piece-goods, 178; Coy's monopoly in, 273-4; notes on, 467, 477.
- Silver, lix, lx, 28-9, 66-7, 80, 133, 181, 219, 414.
- Simson, Charles, 93.
- Sinc̃ (Scindy), 169, 305, 483.
- Skeene, James, surgeon of the *Morse*, 325.
- Skelton, Lt Arnoldus Jones, resigns, 299.
- Skinley, John, 265.
- Skinner, Capt. James, 282, 469; to resume duty, 33, 97.
- Skottowe, Capt. Nicholas, of the *Bridge-water*, 163.
- Smith,—, Chief of Vizagapatam, 216.
- Smith, Maj. Frederick Thomas, 97.
- Smith, George, clerk at Basra, 21.
- Smith, John, matross, 346.
- Smith, Capt. John, of the *Hampshire*, 64, 65, 67, 74.
- Smith, Joshua, Director of E. I. Coy, 116, 131-2, 136, 138, 162, 164, 167.
- Smith, Lt Lewis, 151, 216.
- Smith, Col. Richard, 28, 35, 39, 50; Brig. Gen., 5, 34, 50-1, 61, 94-5, 106, 180, 182, 184, 190, 467; resigns, 95; notes on, 467, 481.
- Smith, Capt. William, of the *Houghton*, 163, 272.
- Snell, William, Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 52.
- Society of Trade, 103, 159-61, 186, 348; note on, 475.
- Solo, see *Sulu Island*.
- Sonamukhi (Soonamokie), Bankura Dist., Bengal, 17.
- Sonauts*, *Sonnauts*, see *Rupee*, *Sanwat*.
- Sonnauds*, see *Sanad*.
- Soubah*, see *Suba*.
- Soucar*, see *Sahukar*.
- Soujah Dowlah, Soujah-ul-Doulah, see Shujaud-Daulah.
- Spain, silk from, 7; relations with Great Britain, 70, 194; treaty with Holland, 194.
- Speaker* (ship), 119.
- Specie, 164, 184, 210-1, 274, 293, 305, 366; paucity of, 37, 181; for Bombay, 179, 364; see also *Bullion*.
- Speke* (ship), 64, 74, 77, 317, 343, 346, 349, 350, 352, 357-9, 362, 376, 383, 386, 390.
- Capt., see Jackson, Capt. Jeffery.
- Spellman, Capt. Henry, 155-6.
- Spera, Pietro, 112.
- Spike*, see *Speke*.
- Spink, William, surgeon of the *Ponsborne*, 325.
- Spratt, Serjt Richard, 251.
- Stafford* (ship), 269, 272.
- Stag* (H.M.'s frigate), 162-3, 204, 289, 303-4, 311, 317, 322, 327, 334, 336, 362.
- Capt., see Dean, Capt. Joseph.
- Stainforth, Capt. George, Jr, of the *Queen*, 63.
- Stainforth, Major J., salary of, 321.
- Stainforth, Capt. John, reinstated, 33.
- Standing Counsel, E. I. Coy's, see Sayer, C.
- Steane, Robert, 51.
- Steel, 11; for Bombay, 64; for Coy's settlements in the East Indies, 134, 168; for Bengal, 165.
- Stein, Andrew, gunner, 77.
- Stevens, John, Chief Officer of the *Clive*, 383.
- Stevenson, John, Chief Officer of the *Rochford*, 383; 362-3.
- Steward,—, 237; writer, 182, 276.
- Stewart, John, 108, 339, 378; Judge Advocate of Bengal, 116; Secy to Board, 440.
- Stewart, John, 5th Officer of the *Lord North*, 351.
- Stewart, Capt. John, of the *Duke of Albany*, 119, 421.
- Stivey, John, 233.
- Stivey, William, 251.
- Stoakes, Capt. Peter, of the *Nottingham*, 119, 414-5.
- Stockeridge, John, 414.
- Stone, William, 323.
- Storekeeper of the Works, 184, 212.
- Stores, 105; for St. Helena, 233; for Fort Marlbro', 270; from Europe, 272; see also *Military Stores*; *Naval Stores*.
- Stormonth, John, asst surgeon, reinstated, 153-4, 231-2.
- Stretham* (ship), 105.
- Stuart, Charles, 184.
- Stuart, Frederick, writer, 157, 308; note on, 483.
- Suba* (province; also used as short form of *Subadar*), xviii, 87, 238, 306, 367.
- Subadari* (office of the viceroy), 238.
- Success* (ship), 175.
- Succurtaul, Suckertall see Shukartar.
- Sudder Cutcherry*, see *Sadr Cutcherry*.

- Suffarz Khan, Suffraz Cawn, *see* Sarfaraz Khan.
- Sujah Dowla, Sujahul-Dowlah, *see* Shujaud-Daulah.
- Sullivan, Laurence, Director of E. I. Coy, 52, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 162, 164, 167, 170; Member of Secret Committee, 110, 165.
- Sulu Island, in the Philippines, Sultan of, 343.
- Sumner, William Brightwell, 324.
- Sumroo, *see* Reinhardt, Walter.
- Sun Siccas*, *see* Rupee, *Sikka*.
- Sunnaud*, *Sunnods*, *Sunnuds*, *see* *Sanad*.
- Sunnaut* Rupee, *see* Rupee, *Sanwat*.
- Supercargoes, in China, 169; note on, 476.
- Supervisors, xxxiii, 89-90, 204, 237, 244, 291, 293, 310, 348, 378.
- Surat Factory, 211, 390, 438.
- Surat Rupee, *see* Rupee, Surat.
- Surgeon General, of the army, *see* Anderson, James.
- Surgeons, 9, 44, 68, 93-4, 154, 295, 378; in army, 68.
- Surveyor General, *see* Rennell, Maj. James.
- Surveyors, 45.
- Surveys, 161; of *jagirs* granted by Nawab of Arcot, 75; of eastern India, 187; by Capt. Rennell, 440.
- Sutton, Capt. John, of the *Duke of Portland*, 163.
- Swainston, William, writer, 137, 439.
- Swan, Jeremiah, 233.
- Swan, John, 282.
- Swan, William, 4th Officer of the *Lord Holland*, 359.
- Swithin, Capt. James, of the *Britannia*, 115.
- Syef-ul-dine, *see* Saifud-Din.
- Syf-ul-Dowlah, Syfe-ul-Dowlah, Syful-Dowla, *see* Saiful-Daulah.
- Sykes, Francis, Chief of Cossimbazar Factory, 23-4; Resdt at Murshidabad Durbar, 28; note on, 469.
- Sykes, John, writer, 137, 148.
- Symonds, Capt. John, of the *Northumberland*, 71.
- Synasses, *see* *Sannyasi*.
- Syndeah, *see* Mahadji Sindia.
- Syren (sloop), 305.
- T**ACKALEY, *see* Tekkali.
- Taffeta (Taffatie), for Balambangan, 53.
- Tahsildars* (Indian collectors of revenue), xxxiii.
- Talbot* (ship), 3, 7, 41, 63, 73.
- Tanjore, Madras, Raja of, settlement between Muhammad Ali and, 337.
- Taqavi* (loans made to farmers for seed, bullocks or agricultural improvements), 328, 355.
- Tate, John, 190.
- Tate, Mrs. Mary, widow of Capt. John Tate, 156.
- Tatem, George, Director of E. I. Coy, 164, 167, 170.
- Tatta, Sind, establishment of factory at, 483.
- Taylor, Francis, 233.
- Taylor, John, writer, 137, 147-8, 439.
- Taylor, John, surgeon, 232; resigns, 282.
- Taylor, Capt. Thomas, of the *Oxford*, 71; of the *Hampshire*, 74.
- Taylor, William, Corporal, 346.
- Tea, curtailment of duties on, 166, 476.
- Teasdale, Richard, writer, 137, 162.
- Tegavy*, *see* *Taqavi*.
- Tehsildars*, *see* *Tahsildars*.
- Tekkali, Ganjam Dist., Madras, Raja of, 216.
- Telucke Chand, *see* Tilak Chand.
- Telukee Ram, *see* Triloki Ram.
- Teneriffe Island, wine from, 232.
- Tetuin-Bien* (ship), 106.
- Thames* (ship), 63, 317.
- Thirkill, John, purser of the *Speke*, 352.
- Thomas,—, surgeon, reinstated, 377.
- Thomas, Francis Balader, 190.
- Thompson, Miss Elizabeth, 324.
- Thomson, Capt. William, of the *Calcutta*, 63.
- Thornhill, Capt. Cudbert, 307.
- Thynne, Thomas, 3rd Viscount Weymouth, Secy of State, England, 55, 56, 57, 58, 472; note on, 472.
- Tibet, exploration of trade facilities with, xxxix, 179.
- Tidy, Emerson, 44, 297.
- Tilak Chand (Telucke Chand), Raja of Burdwan, dies, 215.
- Tilsley, George, purser of the *Lord North*, 351.
- Tirhut, payment of tribute by the Gurkha King to the zamindar of, 368, 486.
- Tobacco, 159; freedom of trade in, 21, 121, 249; trade privileges to members of Board proposed, 348-9.
- Tocojee, Tokogee, Tokojee, *see* Tukoji Rao Holkar.
- Tod, Capt. Alexander, of the *Earl of Lincoln*, 118.
- Toone, Capt. Swinnev, 309; note on, 483.
- Tottingham, Maj. John, 135; Lt-Col., 231.
- Town Major, of Calcutta, 96, 381.
- Trade—
- E. I. Coy's, xvii, xxxv-xl; in cotton piece-goods, silk and saltpetre, xxxvi, 178, 273-4; with Nepal, Tibet and Western China, 9, 177, 179-80, 252, 480; with Balambangan, 52-3, 187; exports to India and China, 64-5, 134, 168-9; with Assam and Bhutan, 80; with Shujaud-Daulah's dominions, 84, 91, 366-7, 438; in *chunam*, 255, 341; investment through *dadni* merchants, 272-3, 383-4; *see also* Society of Trade.
- French, complaints of obstruction in, 54, 56, 57.
- Illicit, by ships' commanders, 10-1; by Coy's servants, 58-9; in arms, 106.
- Private, by Coy's servants, xxxvi, 17-8; in silk, xxxvii, 19, 20; removal of restrictions on salt, betel-nut and tobacco, xxxix-xl, 21, 120-1, 249; by ships' commanders, 78, 350-1; measures to encourage, 80-1, 82-3, 140; monopolised by Coy's servants, 125; in Madeira wine, 158, 460; by Members of Board, 291-2, 347-9; effect on Coy's

- trade, 293-4. *See also* Investment; Piece-goods; Silk.
- Treasury—  
—Fort William, statement of cash balances at, 189, 195, 310, 341, 382, 403, 414, 437, 441; issue of interest notes, 341.  
—Murshidabad, cash balances in, 253, 349, 382, 403.  
—Patna, cash balances at, 349, 385.  
Treasury Certificates, grant of, 190-1, 254, 265, 325-7, 351-2, 359-60, 382-3, 398; *see also* Bills of Exchange.
- Triloki Ram (Telukee Ram), 120.
- Triton (schooner), 270.
- Triton (ship), 118, 135, 136, 408, 414, 437, 442, 458.
- Capt., *see* Elphinstone, Capt. William.
- Trott, Eggleton, 299.
- True Briton (ship), 53, 54, 55, 290.
- Tryon, Capt. William, of the *Deptford*, 64.
- Tukoji Rao Holkar (Tocojee, Tokogee, Tokojee, Tuccogee), Commander of Indore army, 259, 336, 454; marches towards Farrukhabad, 266.
- Twenty-Four Parganas (also referred to as Calcutta lands), 420, 476; law courts in, *lv*; revenue administration of, 43, 181, 330, 428-30.
- Collector, *see* Holme, T.
- Tydell, Richard, 52.
- UMRAO Giri Gosain (Omrose Gosseine), sent to the Maratha camp, 242, 260; note on, 481.
- Upper Provinces, remittance of silver to, *lx*.
- Upton, Maj. John, 150, 459.
- VALENTINE (ship), 3, 11, 33, 37, 39, 40, 163, 206, 244.
- Capt., *See* Ogilvie, Capt. James; Purvis, Capt. C.
- Vansittart (ship), 3, 7, 163, 207, 208, 219, 230, 246, 390.
- Capt., *see* Lewin, Capt. Richard; Young, Capt. Robert.
- Vansittart, Arthur, writer, 91.
- Vansittart, George, Resdt at Midnapore Factory, 218, 237; note on, 480.
- Vansittart, Henry, Commissioner for Coy's settlements in India, 467.
- Vansittart, Henry, junr, writer, 91.
- Vazarat (office of the Vazir), 355, 357.
- Verdett (Vernet), G. L., Dutch Governor at Chinsura, illicit trade with Bolts, 48, 279, 294.
- Verelst (ship) 3, 6, 8, 9, 79, 179, 207, 211, 265, 269, 280, 282, 283, 284, 286, 290, 293, 305, 336, 340, 363, 381, 383, 395, 406, 439; loss of, 133, 304, 310, 322; note on, 482.
- Capt., *see* Compton, Capt. Thomas.
- Vere-st, H., Director of E. I. Coy, 111, 114.
- Verelst, Harry, Governor of Bengal, 27, 185, 187, 218, 272, 296, 301, 343; attitude towards Indian powers, *xix-xx*; resigns from Select Committee of Board, 194; note on, 478.
- Vernet, *see* Verdett.
- Vertue, Lt William, lawsuit against Lord Clive, 35-6; note on, 470.
- Vidonia Wine, 178.
- Visaji Krishna Binivale (Bysagee Pundit), *Diwan* of Madhav Rao I, *xxii*. 434, 454; commander of Maratha forces, 287, 314, 336; note on, 482.
- Vizagapatam, 48.
- Chief of, *see* Andrews, J; Smith,—.
- Vizary Rupees, *see* Rupee, *Vaziri*.
- Vizier, *see* Shujaud-Daulah, Nawab Vazir of Oudh.
- Vizierhut, *see* Vazarat.
- Volham,—, Acting Commissary of Stores, 13.
- WADLEY, George, 324.
- Wadsworth, William, writer, 91.
- Waghorn, Martin, Chief Mate of the *Ponsborne*, 325.
- Waite, Thomas, cadet, 34; dismissed, 323.
- Walker, John, 398.
- Walker, Joseph, 265.
- Walker, Richard, 162.
- Walker, Thomas, 282.
- Walton, John, Member of Canton Council, 66.
- Warren, Capt. Isaac Eyles, 342, 346; resigns, 345.
- Warwick (H.M.'s warship), 71, 317.
- Capt., *see* Leslye, Capt. Charles.
- Waterman, George, 346.
- Waters, Jacob, 323.
- Watkins, Mrs. Susannah, 299.
- Watson, Maj. Henry, Chief Engineer, 323, 396, 397, 402; construction of new docks on the Hooghly, *lvii*, 22, 74-5, 79, 180-1; construction of Berhampore and Dinapore cantonments, *lvii*, 25, 275; representation by, 33; banking facilities granted to, 309-10; brick contract with, 370-2; resigns, 394; note on, 469.
- Watson, Capt. John, of the *Morse*, 303, 325, 326.
- Watson, William, 414.
- Watts, James, reinstated, 182.
- Watts, William, 45; estate of, 162.
- Weavers, oppression of, 81.
- Webb, Capt. John, of the *London*, 64, 74; reinstated, 10-1.
- Webber, William, writer, 91, 323.
- Wedderburn, Brig.-Gen.—, C.-in-C., Bombay, 53.
- Wedderburn,—, agent of Dundas, 271.
- Wedderburn, Charles, cadet, 53.
- Weir, James, 265.
- Wells, Francis, 414.
- Wells, John, 69.
- West,—, anti-British activities, 435.
- West Coast (presumably of Sumatra), pepper from, 66, 69.
- Westena, John, 3rd Officer of the *Ponsborne*, 325.
- Weston, Charles, 190.
- Weymouth, Lord, *see* Thynne, Thomas.
- Wheler, Edward, Director of E. I. Coy, 62, 71, 73, 76, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 138, 162, 164, 167, 170.

White, George, 148.  
 White, Hendrick, 414.  
 White, Capt. John, of the *Havannah*, 118.  
 Whiteway, John, 3rd Officer of the *Clive*, 398.  
 Whitewood, Samuel, purser of the *Nottingham*, 415.  
 Whittall, Richard, attorney of the Mayor's Court, 112-3, 339.  
 Wier, Daniel, Director of E. I. Coy, 9, 52, 54, 62, 73, 76, 109, 111, 114, 116, 131, 132, 136, 162.  
 Wilder, Richard, sericulturist, 41.  
 Wilding, Lt-Col. Benjamin, 97; pay and allowances, 386.  
 Wildman, Samuel, writer, 137, 439.  
 Wilkins, Jeffery, factor, resigns, 279, 282.  
 Wilkins, Walter, Member of Board, 383, 386, 402; of Secret Committee, 361; resigns, 397.  
 Wilkinson, William, writer, 137, 439.  
 Williams, John, gunner, 346.  
 Williams, Capt. Stephen, of the *Hector*, 119.  
 Williamson, George, 27, 186; dismissed, 26; suit against, 282.  
 Williamson, James, Chief Officer of the *Nottingham*, 414.  
 Wilmers, Diederick Adolph, 156.  
 Wilmot, Robert, factor, dies, 279.  
 Wilson, Lt—, pension for widow of, 309.  
 Wilson, David, 461.  
 Wilson, Edward, Chief Mate of the *Lord Mansfield*, 300.  
 Wilson, John, 346.  
 Wine, 141; from Canary Islands, 51; from Teneriffe, 232; *see also* Madeira Wine; Vidonia Wine.  
 Winship, Edward, dies, 187.  
 Winwood (Windwoud), Col. Ralph, Commandant, Bengal Artillery, 13, 33, 95-6, 97, 182, 251, 376; resigns, 231; note on, 477.  
 Wiss, James, Supdt of Raw Silk Investment, 66-7, 112, 141, 166, 212, 273, 284, 298; appointment, 8-9, 14-5, 230; his method of winding silk, 142, 247, 283, 306, 322, 385; seeks permission for private trade, 320.  
 Wood, Francis, Resdt and Member of Canton Council, 66, 134, 169.

Wood, Henry, 251.  
 Wood, Serjt Henry, 346.  
 Wood, John, 3rd Officer of the *Nassau*, 442.  
 Woodford, Jonathan, cadet, 161; ensign, 157.  
 Woodhouse, John, Director of E. I. Coy, 6, 9, 52, 54, 62, 71, 111, 114, 116, 136, 138, 162.  
 Woollens, 66, 133; sale of, 84, 365.  
 Worcester (ship), 130, 131, 133, 163, 232, 246, 269, 278, 281, 282, 283, 284, 286, 290, 304, 363.  
 —Capt., *see* Cook, Capt. John; Hall, Capt. J.  
 Wordsworth, William, writer, 323.  
 Worship, John, to be Supdt of Gunpowder Works, 27.  
 Wright, B. G., Alderman, appointed Presdt of Court of Cutcherry, 230.  
 Wright, Lt. George, resigns, 282; to resume duty, 151.  
 Wright, William, 4th Officer of the *Nottingham*, 415.  
 Writers, E. I. Coy's, 169; appointments, 67, 91, 137; debts, 158-9.  
 Wynne, William, Secy to Board, 218; Collector of Mahmudshahi, 440.

YATES,—, chaplain, 278.  
 Yeo, John, dies, 380.  
 York (ship), 63, 304.  
 Young, Peter, Lt Fire-Worker, resigns, 350.  
 Young, Richard, 323.  
 Young, Capt. Robert, of the *Vansittart*, 163.

ZABITA Khan (Zabita Cawn, Zabta Cawn), son and heir of Najibud-Daulah, relations with the Marathas, xxi, 314-5, 336, 357, 388, 434, 454, 482, 487; succession of, 258-9, 263; relations with Shah Alam, 287, 336, 432; retires to northern hills, 400; relations with Shujaud-Daulah, 433-4.  
 Zephier,—, a French deserter, activities of, 225.